WOODHOUSE FAMILY 1751-2002

MASSACHUSETTS TO MICHIGAN & WISCONSIN

BY V. ARLENE FRODEY

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Acknowledgments

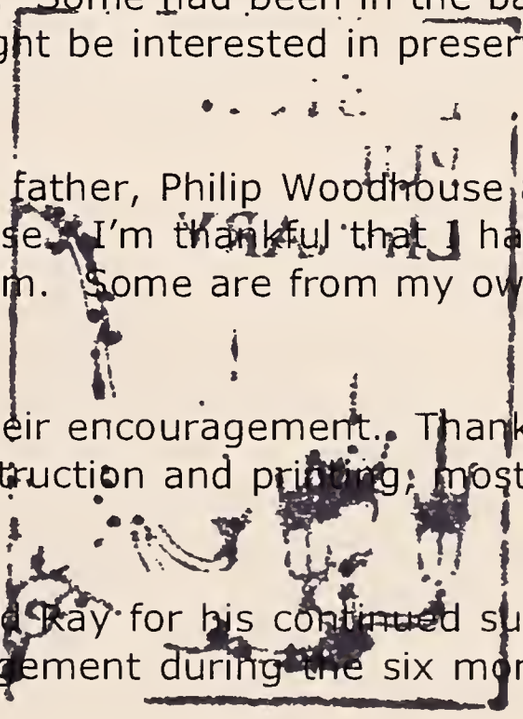
Many family members have share stories, memories, and photo graphs with me. I truly appreciate them all.

Most of the photographs included have been collected over the years. Many came from my parents photo albums and a shoe box full came from Aunt Helen's house. Some had been in the back of a closet until it was discovered I might be interested in preserving them.

Many of the stories came from my father, Philip Woodhouse and my mother Wilma Hathaway Woodhouse. I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to hear and record them. Some are from my own memories.

Thanks to family and friends for their encouragement. Thanks to my son Michael for council about construction and printing, mostly new to me.

A huge thanks goes to my husband Ray for his continued support, editing help and constant encouragement during the six months I have been working on this book.



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To exchange Woodhouse family information or for copies of this book please contact me at this address.
Written for Woodhouse Family Reun
June 22, 2002 in Michigan

FORWARD

In the summer 0f 1986 I began gathering the stories my parents were telling and what I remembered my grandmothers telling me and writing them down. We have been able to account for ten generations of Woodhouse as of June 22nd, 2002, the date of this Woodhouse Family Reunion. Purely by accident we have planned this reunion on the 251st anniversary of the marriage William and Waitstill Woodhouse, our earliest known Woodhouse ancestors.

My goal is to share with you what I have learned about our early American Woodhouses, what I believe their lives must have been like and to follow them down through the generations to modern times. This is not meant to be a complete Woodhouse genealogy but simply a point of beginning for any others who might want to follow in more detail.

Beside our brave and hearty Woodhouse men we have in each generation grandmothers to thank for our existence. They made homes for their husbands and gave birth to their children who in turn became our grandparents, aunts and uncles. Children were not born in hospitals in sterile conditions as most are today, but were born at home, in the bed in which they were conceived, with a female relative or neighbor to help them through the birth. Yes, our grandmothers were from hearty stock too. Families and neighbors looked out for each other in many ways including delivering babies and caring for the sick. They helped each other build homes and barns and develop the little communities that became important towns and cities. This was necessary because few could make it on their own in the wilderness.

While we have accounted for ten generations of our branch of the Woodhouse family tree it is possible that other generations have been discovered but have not been documented. There is for example, Henry Woodis alias Woodhouse, of Concord, Massachusetts who wrote his will in July 1700. He names his daughter Sarah who married John Dakin.

There was a couple married in Boston, not far from Milton, Norfolk county, Massachusetts where William and Waitstill were married. Their names were William Woodhouse and Constance Hall. They were married by Mr. Joshua Gee Presn. on 12 July 1726. They probably came from England. Since we estimate that our William was born about 1728, it is quite possible that these were his parents. Perhaps someday we can prove this to give us 11 or even 12 generations of Woodhouse in America. Wouldn't be wonderful to find the find who our first Woodhouse ancestor

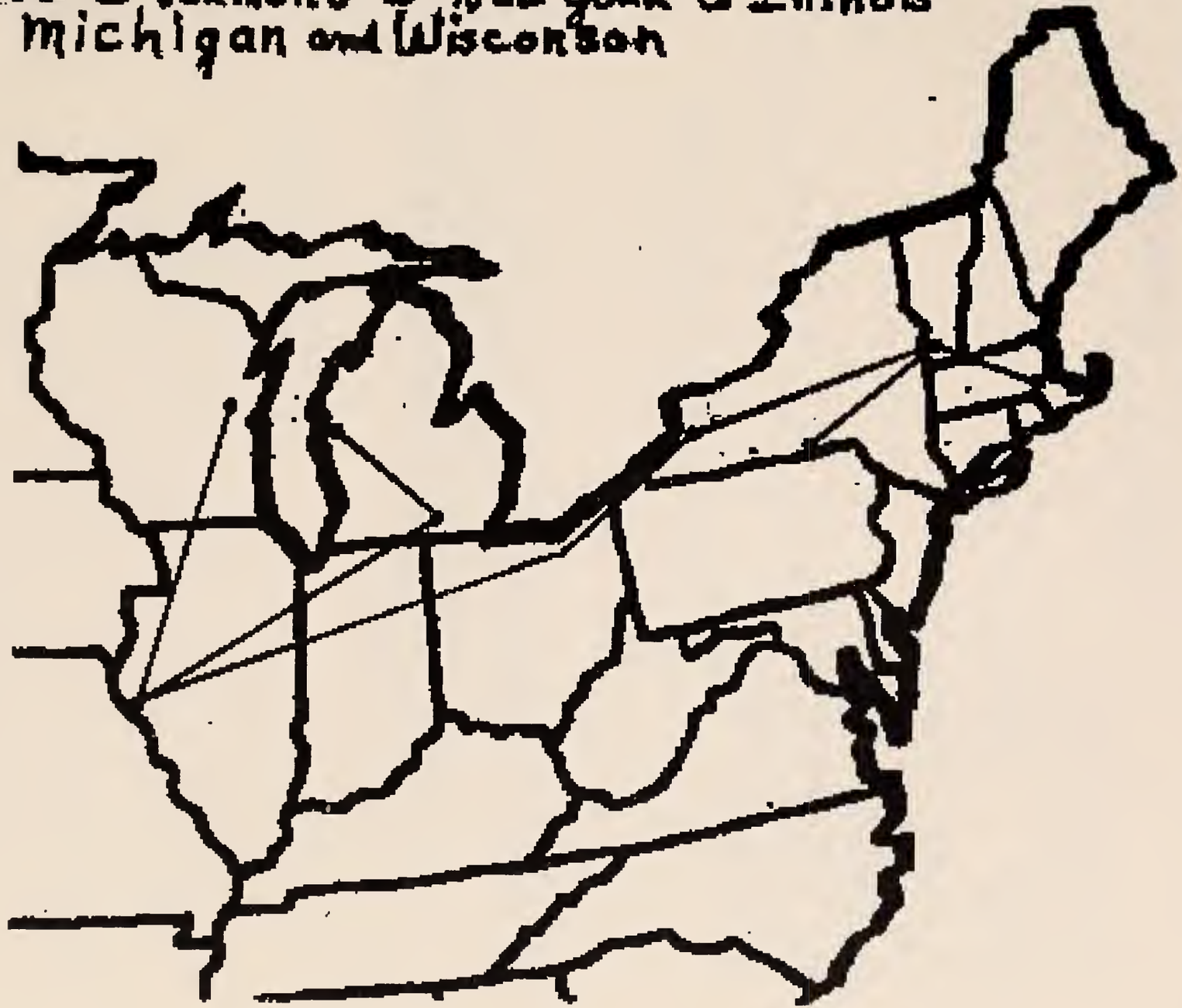
to come to this land?

Meanwhile we begin with William and Waitstill (Hunt) Woodhouse who is found in the book titled 'The History of Milton, Mass 1630 to 1887', Assessments on Page 217, state: "These Rates made by ye Assessors of Milton (Mass.) in Nov. 1749 being each man Proportion to the Province, Town, and County Tax and being each mans part for the East End of the Town of Milton" The names William Woodhouse, Joseph Hunt and Brimsmead Hunt are included in the list of those being taxed. Surely the two men named Hunt became his relatives when he married Waitstill Hunt.

It is my pleasure to share with you what I have learned thus far, about our own ever-growing Woodhouse family line. Here is a place for the next generation of family historians to begin. I have made it as accurate as I can, but acknowledge that there could be errors. If you find errors please note them in the back of your book and note the source and notify me please.

Woodhouse Migration

Massachusetts to Vermont to New York to Illinois to Michigan and Wisconsin



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CHAPTER ONE

WILLIAM & WAITSTILL WOODHOUSE

MARRIED JUNE 22, 1751
MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

CHILDREN:

PATIENCE - 1752
ABIGAIL - 1754
MARY - 1756
WILLIAM - 1758
HENRY - 1761 (CHAPTER 2)

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WILLIAM WOODHOUSE AND WAITSTILL HUNT
circa 1728 - 1765

Our earliest known ancestor is **William Woodhouse**. He was probably born in Massachusetts about 1728. On June 22, 1751 William Woodhouse married **Waitstill Hunt** in Milton, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. Waitstill, was born December 1, 1732, and was a daughter of Brimsmet and Patience Hunt. She had a brother Brimsmead. and they were the grandchildren of Joseph and Margrit Hunt all of Milton, Norfolk county, Massachusetts.

In a booklet named "HUNT" which is an extraction from the "History of Weymouth, Massachusetts", the name Brimsmead(e) is found as a sur name. It states "Ephraim Hunt son of Enoch took as his second wife Ebbett Brimsmead who died at Milton, September 9, 1712. She was the daughter of William Brimsmeade, an early settler of Dorchester". While we don't have proof of a direct connection, I feel reasonably confident that this is our HUNT ancestral line.

The town of Milton was settled in the mid 1600's and is situated on the south side of Boston. It is built on the Neponset River which runs into the Massachusetts Bay. Named for the Neponset Indians who were there when William and Waitstill married and began "keeping house". William would have already built or bought a home near other settlers. Some Neponset still live on a reservation on the edge of town.

As William would have cleared the land, the tree stumps were most likely lined up along the edge of the fields and pastures as fences to keep the livestock from wandering too far. In New England fences were also made of field stone placed around the edges of fields. The rocks were readily available since they had to be removed from the fields to till the land. Waitstill's brothers and father would have helped build the house and clear the land. It may have been a log cabin first or they may have built a home of planks. Perhaps as their family grew, a room was built onto the existing building, or perhaps a two story home was built instead. Heat was from the

large fireplace in the main room where meals were cooked.

William would most likely have learned another skill beside farming, to contribute to the towns prosperity and to earn hard cash to buy 3the things they could not make or grow for themselves. He could have been blacksmith or a miller or filled some other need in the community. Carpentry is a skill that has followed down through the Woodhouse generations. Maybe it started with William.

Everyone in the family had many chores to do from very early in the morning until well after dark. The cow, calves and horses needed to be fed. Ground had to be cleared, and tilled to grow feed for the animals and food for the family. Grain must be grown, harvested, taken to the mill that another family would be operating on the bank of the closest fast moving river.

Our Grandmother's daily duties are staggering to think about. The cow had to be milked twice a day. Bread must be baked daily. Butter must be churned. Candles had to be made. Quilts were not just an art form but kept their beds warm. However, woolen blankets were the best source of warmth at night.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Americans raised sheep in large numbers for both wool and mutton. For a family such as William and Waitstill's this meant keeping their own flock of sheep along with the other livestock. At lambing time everyone helps. Raising sheep for wool meant shearing them at just the right time of the year. The fleece then had to be scoured by immersing the fleece in a tub filled with a mixture of stale urine and warm water. If the mixture was too weak or too cold the greasy lanolin would not be removed properly. If the solution was too hot or over-alkaline the solution would "felt" the wool into lumps of tangled fibers. Then the wool was rinsed in fresh water and set upon racks to dry. After it was dry it had to be "picked" to remove dirt, dung, straw and other impurities.

Wool then had to be carded and spun on a "great wheel" spinning wheel. This differs from the Saxony spinning wheel that is lower and smaller and used for the spinning of fleece.

The wool was then woven into fabrics for clothing and bedding. No sewing machines then..... every stitch was sewn by hand.

Families were basically self sufficient. Nothing, absolutely nothing was wasted. Water from a spring or nearby stream was brought into the house in a bucket and after use was recycled. If used for cooking it went into a soup pot. If it was used for the rare bath, it went out to water the garden. And for the women all this was done in heavy homespun skirts and petticoats!

William and Waitstill had five children. The first babies, two little girls didn't live long. Their baby girl **Patience**, only lived to be two months old having been born in November 1752 and died in January 1753. The second baby, **Abigail** never saw her second birthday. She was born in March 1754 and died in August 1756. When someone in a family died, most farm families had a burial place on their farm somewhere. When homes were built close together there was a community cemetery.
William and Waitstill's third child, **Mary**, born in 1756, was a stronger baby and she grew up to marry and have babies of her own. Then came their two sons, **William** Aug. 9 1758 and **Henry** March 5, 1761. All were born in Milton, Massachusetts. Our family is descended from their youngest son, **Henry**$_2$ (William$_1$)

Mary was five years old when her baby brother Henry was born and William was only two years old. Their mother had more than enough to do, so Mary's main job would have been to watch her younger brothers and see to their needs as best she could. Mainly rock the cradle to keep baby Henry quiet and try to keep young Will from burning himself on the kettle where supper was cooking over the fire in the big fire place. He would need to be watched out of doors too to keep him from wandering off into the woods or into the barn where he might get hurt. Will, being the first born son, was named for his father as was common.

There would have been a milk cow in the barn and at least one horse. The horse was mainly used for working the fields and gardens and to pull the wagon or carriage. There may have been a second horse for riding long distances.

Usually, in those days, everyone walked where ever they were going. Often when it was necessary to travel to a distant town or a neighbor they would travel on the river. Water travel was the easiest way to commute. Milton like most towns and communities

was built on the edge of a river or lake because water was a very necessary part of their lives. There were well worn trails along the rivers edge that led to the next farm or town. Roads were being built in the town of Milton about this time. William and his brothers in law would help with this because building roads was a community project.

Waitstill would have had the garden to plant and tend and it was her job to harvest and preserve the food as best she could. Potatoes, carrots, and rutabagas were dug in early fall and stored in a root cellar that William dug in a bank of soil for that purpose. It was close enough to the house to reach during the hard winters that the New England states are known for. Fish from a nearby stream or river would have provided many a meal. Apples and other fruits were dried to enjoy the rest of the year.

Wild game was plentiful and William and Waitstill's brothers hunted for food for the table. The furs could be tanned and used by the family or used for barter, or sold. A nice bear rug on the cold plank floor added to the comfort of the room. Nothing was wasted. Strips of wool from old worn clothing or scraps of fabric were sewn together and braided into warm rugs for each room.

The state of Massachusetts experienced accelerated growth in the early 18th century. Mills were built along the smaller rivers and streams to grind grain, saw logs, forge iron and process wool. Seaport towns grew and prospered as overseas trade flourished. Ships carried timber and salt fish to the Caribbean and returned with molasses and sugar. The various taxes put forth by the British after 1730 for replenishment of the British treasury were unpopular in thriving Massachusetts. *

In the mid to late 1700's more than 70% of the settlers in eastern Massachusetts farmed small plots of land. They were independent, self reliant, patriotic, property holders who lived by the fruits of their labors and got by during hard times without much in the way of surplus goods or money. This would certainly describe our earliest known ancestors William and Waitstill Woodhouse.

During William's entire lifetime, America was still under British rule. He probably died before the War of Independence but he must have heard, and taken part in, discussions among his neighbors, leading

up to it. We don't know much about William's sentiments. Was he loyal to King George III or was he in favor of fighting for independence? There were folks in Boston who believed it would be necessary to fight for independence from Great Britain.

While no official record of William's death has been found, it is presumed that William died sometime between the birth of his son Henry in 1761 and August 1767 when Waitstill married Elihu Blake in Milton, Mass.

footnote: *The so-called Molasses Act, Sugar Act, and Stamp Act, followed by the Townsend Acts, stimulated colonial opposition that led to the Boston Massacre of 1770 and the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

Ref. Milton Records; Births, Marriages and Deaths 1662-1843
Milton Town Clerk;
Massachusetts History---
http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley/2242/mass.html

CHAPTER TWO

HENRY & CATHERINE WOODHOUSE

MARRIED JANUARY 4, 1787
RUTLAND, VERMONT

CHILDREN:

MARY - 1787
WILLIAM - 1790
SALLY - 1791
HENRY - 1793
PHILINDA - 1795
ARBA - 1797
CHESTER - 1799
LEONARD - 1802 (CHAPTER 3)
ORANGE - 1804

HENRY WOODHOUSE 1761-1841
CATHERINE OWN 1769-1861

Henry Woodhouse (William1) was born the 5th of March 1761 in Million, Massachusetts, the youngest child of William and Waitstill. His sister Mary was then five years old and his brother William was two. William was given their fathers name as was common when the first son was born.

Henry grew up in Million playing with his brother and sister and friends. In the winter they could slide down the many hills nearby that surrounded the town of Million. By the time Henry was seven years old the population of Million had increased to seven hundred and fifty. In a town in meeting in 1768, it was voted upon to build two schools, one in each end of town. Some town's people donated land and it was decided that who ever would build the schools the cheapest would get the job. The size of each of the schools would be "16 by 20". Prior to building these two schools the children were probably taught in private homes. We know that Henry learned to write his name since it is recorded on his military pension application. The teachers who taught in these one room schools or homes were not trained as they are today. Schools usually were taught by a student who had excelled and graduated from the top grade which was sixth or possibly eighth grade.

Most families lived on a farm and did other work in the winter for the hard cash needed to buy things they could not grow or make for themselves. Social life centered around church, town meetings, in the local mill, or in the taverns. Taverns were more than a pub to the community. Town business was discussed here and serious plans for the community were decided. It was an inn where people passing through could rest and eat. Politics were discussed and sometimes people stayed overnight when they needed a place to sleep before continuing on their journey. Sometimes non violent prisoners were held here for a period of time. (In another New England town a Revolutionary War hero was held in a local tavern for 14 years because he refused to pay a fine he felt was unjust. His name was Col. William Barton; not directly related to us)

Henry was 15 years old when the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. This must have been a frequent topic of

conversation at home and at public places. There were no telephones, or televisions to keep the Million townsfolk up to date on what was happening, still there were some folks in town who could read and write and the political news would reach Million eventually, and travelers would carry the news from town to town as they came to visit family or perhaps were moving west.

In April 1778, when Henry was 17, he went to Brookfield, Worchester County, Massachusetts and enlisted as a private. He served in Col. Wade's Regiment, Captain Cutlers Company with Lt. Thomas Moore for seven months and 28 days to fight the British with the Massachusetts Troops. The company marched to Providence, Rhode Island winter quarters in East Greenwich. At the end of nine months he volunteered and served in the same company and regiment for three more months. He was discharged in April of 1779 at Greenwich, Rhode Island.

Then in October 1782 Henry enlisted for 6 months as a marine aboard The Sloop Winthrop under Captain George Little for the State of Massachusetts. They sailed from Boston in early November 1782 and they "captured two vessels".

Meanwhile, **Catherine Owen** was born in the town of Ware, Massachusetts on the 6th of May 1769. Catherine was not quite 17 and Henry was 26 when they were married in Ira, Rutland County, Vermont. Bans were published in the Baptist Church on Thanksgiving Day 1786 and they were married by Judge Porter on 4th January 1787.

THE FAMILY OF CATHERINE OWEN

Catherine Owen grew up with at least four siblings. We know of three brothers, **Samuel** born 1757, **Joseph** born 1759, **Jonathan** born 1761 and a sister **Sarah**. (At this writing Sarah's birth date and their parents names are not known).

Samuel Owen is reported in the 1800 census as a family of seven living in Tinmouth. Samuel was a farmer and purchased his original farm in Ira, Vermont in 1785. Their five children were Abner, Warren, Abigail, Phebe and Electa. Electa married Aaron Burr Angevine, "distant cousin of Aaron Burr". (THE Aaron Burr)

Samuel and his family left Vermont and settled in Knox County, Ohio. Samuel died about 1833 and is buried in Knox, County. All his children stayed in Ohio except Abner who left in 1852 for Winnecone, Wisconsin. *note: Winnecone is not far north of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin where James M. Woodhouse and Emory E. Ensign settled about 1865;

Joseph Owen, a shoemaker, was born in Worcester County, Massachusetts in 1759. He married Susannah Newell on March 1, 1787 in Tinmouth, Rutland County, Vermont. They were married by a Justice of the Peace named Mr. Osborn in the home of her father. Joseph and Susannah had seven children: Abigail born 1787, Lucy born 1789, Susan born 1792, Joseph Porter born 1795, Daniel born 1797, Eunice born 1800 and Amanda born 1802. Amanda married the Rev. Nathaniel Hurd and is listed as a widow in Kenewa, Illinois.

While living in Ira, Vermont, Joseph enlisted as a private in the regiment commanded by Colonel Shepherd of the Massachusetts line in the Revolutionary War, for the term of 3 years; Feb. or March 1777 to Feb. or March 1780. He was discharged at West Point by Col. Sheperd. He was to receive $8 per month to commence on November 14, 1818. A Certificate of Pension was issued May 20, 1820 and sent to R. Temple, Esq, of Rutland, VT.

On September 4, 1820, Joseph had $173.56 due him for 15 months arrears per the Rev. Claim Act March 18, 1818 Joseph was in the Battle of Monmouth, Rhode Island and the capture of Burgoine. He stated that he was "now in reduced circumstances and stands in the need of assistance from his country for support" in his application.

In her pension application Susannah stated that "about 1809 he became intemperate as to be incapable of taking care of himself or family & providing them with the necessities of life - the family therefore broke up. Mrs. Owen supporting herself and part of the children by sewing and keeping school".

Susannah's son-in-law, Daniel I. French testified: "Owen himself had no local habitation or place of residence but wandered about sometimes spending his times with the children and sometimes other places. In the year 1818 he came to Olive (this affiant having come in 1815) Mrs. Owen (Susannah) came to Olive in 1824, or

about that period & has resided with their children up to the present time. Mrs. Owen never did live with her husband from the period above named (1809) until his death which took place in 1824" Signed June 1st 1841.

On Nov. 4, 1818 his brother Jonathan swore that he was Joseph's brother and that Joseph served in the Rev. War from the spring of 1777 to the latter part of the year 1779 for three full years and was honorably discharged. On Nov. 11, 1818 Elisha Hamilton was also a witness that Joseph Owen served from the spring of 1777 to sometime in the year 1779.

Susannah is next found a resident of Concord, Lake County, Ohio where March 5, 1841, age 71 years, she swore to Joseph's service and their marriage and his death. Susannah applied for her widows pension after Joseph's death the 25th of Feb. 1897. In the application she testified as to their marriage, his service and his death.

Jonathan Owen married Mahala Spaldin. In the 1810 census the Jonathan Owen family was reported with seven members, with one son under ten one son between 10 and 16 and another between 16 and 26. One son was named Jonathan, Jr. The names of the other children are not known. Jonathan himself was about 49 in 1810. There was one daughter between 10 and 16 and Mahala was "45 or older".

Sarah Owen married Sylvester Gillette July 17, 1788.
Sylvester was a Doctor and a Universalist Minister. Sarah and Sylvester divorced about 1802 and Sylvester removed to New York with a new wife.

SYLVESTER GILLETTE AND THE PANTHER

There is a great family story as told by his daughter and published later in a newspaper. No date or name of the paper. This story illustrates how life must have been in the wilderness where our ancestors lived. It goes like this:

"Sylvester was a doctor and attended to his medical practice traveling on foot. He also worked at farming. One day when she (his daughter) was an eight year old girl, her father went to do a days work at the Ripley place a mile and a half away. He started for

home at dark. There was but one house on the west road then. There was no road, but a foot path through the dark spruce woods. In the hollow by the Poultney (break?), a little north, he heard a panther scream on the western hill He stopped at OWENS and got a brand of fire and started for home. He had not proceeded but about 50 rods when he found that the panther had scented him and got into the path behind him and between him and the Owens' house. Having no weapon but the fire he hastened on. The panther pursued and came within a few feet of him, every little while (fetching?) some terrible screams. He ran sideways holding out his brand of fire which deterred the animal from leaping upon him. The beast was so close that he could have touched him with the brand. His eyes glowing like two sparks of fire. It made every effort to get around the fire and tackle him. But my grandfather would head him off by keeping the brand before its head. In this way they ran on until they came to the spotting of the space around the Gillette house. A lighted candle shone brightly from the window. It deterred the panther from further pursuit. It wandered off toward the western hills, making at times a most terrible holler. My father burst through the door of the dwelling and fell breathless on the floor. It was some time before he could speak and tell what was the matter. The family comprehended all at once. My grandfather with uncle Ben, then but a boy of a dozen years, went out to the side of the house and fired guns to frightened the panther away."

Catherine Owen Woodhouse, died September 6, 1861 at age 90 years, 4 months and 6 days while living with her daughter Mary and son-in-law Jeremiah McCumber. She is buried in McCumber Cem. #2. in Baldwin, Chemung, New York.

The towns of Million and Ware, where Henry and Catherine were raised, are not far from Boston where in 1764, there was a terrible smallpox epidemic, and Boston was especially hard hit. The Boston Tea Party took place in 1773 and the Boston Massacre in 1776. While this turmoil was going on, the First Continental Congress was taking place in Virginia and John Adams and others were campaigning for independence from Great Britain. Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" was published and John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were working independently on a draft of the Declaration of Independence.

There were serious problems in the State of Massachusetts and Henry and Catherine must have felt it best to distance themselves from it all, because they are next found in Rutland County, Vermont. Rutland County was settled in 1761, the same year Henry Woodhouse was born.

By 1774 there were 35 families settled in Rutland County. It appears that Henry and Catherine went there and settled soon after they were married because all the children are reportedly born in Middletown Springs, Rutland, Vermont. However, they were living in Ira, Rutland Co. when "The Grand List of the Town of Ira 1791 - 1792" was published. The list contains the names Henry Woodhouse, Joseph Owen, Samuel Owen and Jonathan Owen. These are Catherine's brothers.

HENRY AND CATHERINE IN VERMONT

Vermont had a lot to offer and to tempt families to move there. There were vast marble quarries, fertile farm lands and lakes and streams. Tracts given to immigrants to the United States and Canada pointed out that one of the attractions of the New World was that one could grow their own sugar where ever they settled. There were many maple trees to be tapped, not only for the sweet sap to be boiled down to sweeten their food, but for making a wonderfully flavored syrup and maple sugar candy to sell.

Maple trees were tapped in the spring when the sap began to flow after the long dormant winter. A spile could be made from a hollow sumac stem and inserted into a small slash in the maple tree. A bucket, made from wood was hung under the sumac spile and every few days the sap was collected. The sweet liquid was then boiled down to a syrup stage.

Henry and Catherine had been married two years when in 1789, George Washington, a gentleman from Virginia was elected the first president of the United States.

Henry and Catherine's first child **Mary** was born August 18, 1787. On March 22, 1790 along came their first son **William**, followed by a daughter **Sally** who was born December 12, 1791. **Henry** the second son was born the December 15, 1793 in Middletown

Springs. Then on the October 21, 1795 **Philinda** was born, followed by another son **Arba** born in September 13, 1797. After Arba came another son **Chester** born December 14, 1799.

In the second Federal Census taken in 1800 the family was living in Tinmouth, Rutland County, Vermont. There were now seven children. While the children would have had some schooling, work at home would be a priority and schooling would have been fit in when there was time between harvests.

Meanwhile, John Adams, now our second president of the United States (1797-1801) took part in the first Continental Congress and was instrumental in drafting the Declaration of Independence along with Thomas Jefferson who was our next and third president (1801-1809).

Thinking about the drafting of the Declaration of Independence one must remember that this was done with a quill pen made from a goose feather and with ink made from boiled down walnut or butternut husks which were mashed first and then vinegar and salt added to "set" the color. That is if the ink was brown. If the ink was black it was made by adding indigo or from lamp black (soot). No ball point pens and refills then as we have now.

It was while Thomas Jefferson was president that he sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their incredible expedition on the Missouri River to discover a water route to the West Coast.

On the February 25, 1802 another son **LEONARD3** was born in Middletown Springs, Vermont. He is the ancestor from whom we are descend. After Leonard came one more child, born the July 11, 1804. They named him **Orange.** Henry and Catherine's family had grown to eleven, nine children including three daughters and six fine sons.

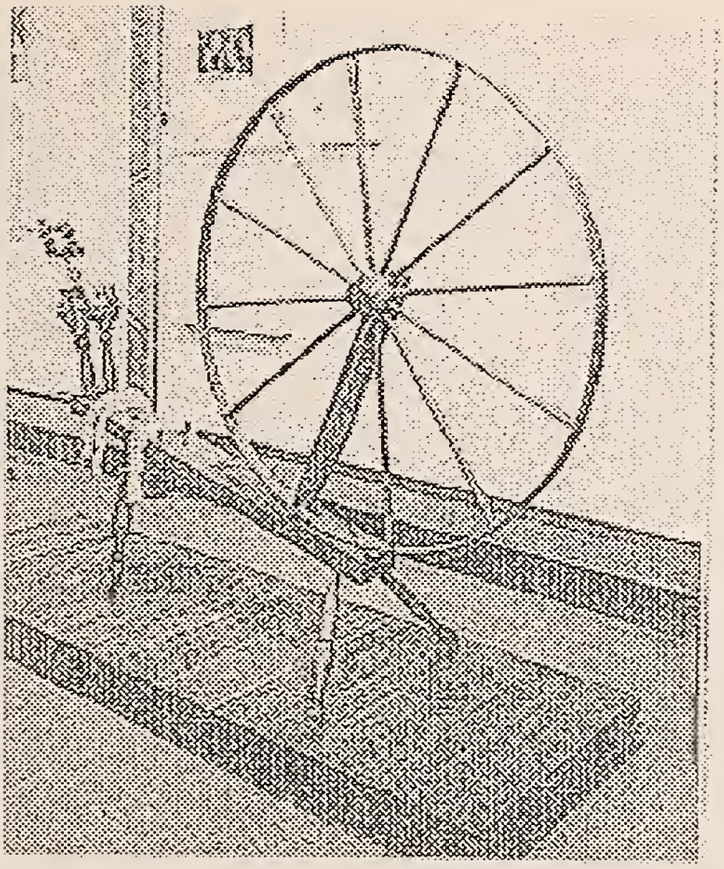
According to the 1810 census Henry and Catherine and their family were still living in Middletown, Rutland, Vermont. The eldest son William would be 20 years old and out on his own at this time.

Catherine would have been kept busy teaching her daughters all the skills they would need to contribute to the family and to keep a

home of their own when they married. Almost everything was hand made. Cloth had to be woven and hand sewn, and, especially in large families, clothing was handed down and altered to fit the next person. Collars on the shirts and coats were turned when worn. Neck ties were hand made. Ladies bonnets and hats were made by hand. Nothing was wasted.

In Middletown, the hatter's shop and the tannery were a necessity, and flourished as in most of the towns for the first fifty years of the settlement of the county. The saddler would make both saddles and bridles. The blacksmith shop was of course very important to a community. The blacksmith made household implements as well as farm tools, and he always had an apprentice working with him and learning the trade.

The 1810 federal census listed the material wealth of the citizens of Middletown. Henry and Catherine were listed as having:
30 yards of woolen cloth;
50 yards of linen cloth;
1 family loom;
3 wooden spinning wheels;
38 of leather (pelts?);
20 manufactured hats and
14 sheep;
The value of the communities industrial efforts were totaled:
There were two grist mills in town; and "Two Distilleries Stills annually producing 3100 Gallons at .75 cents for gallon".



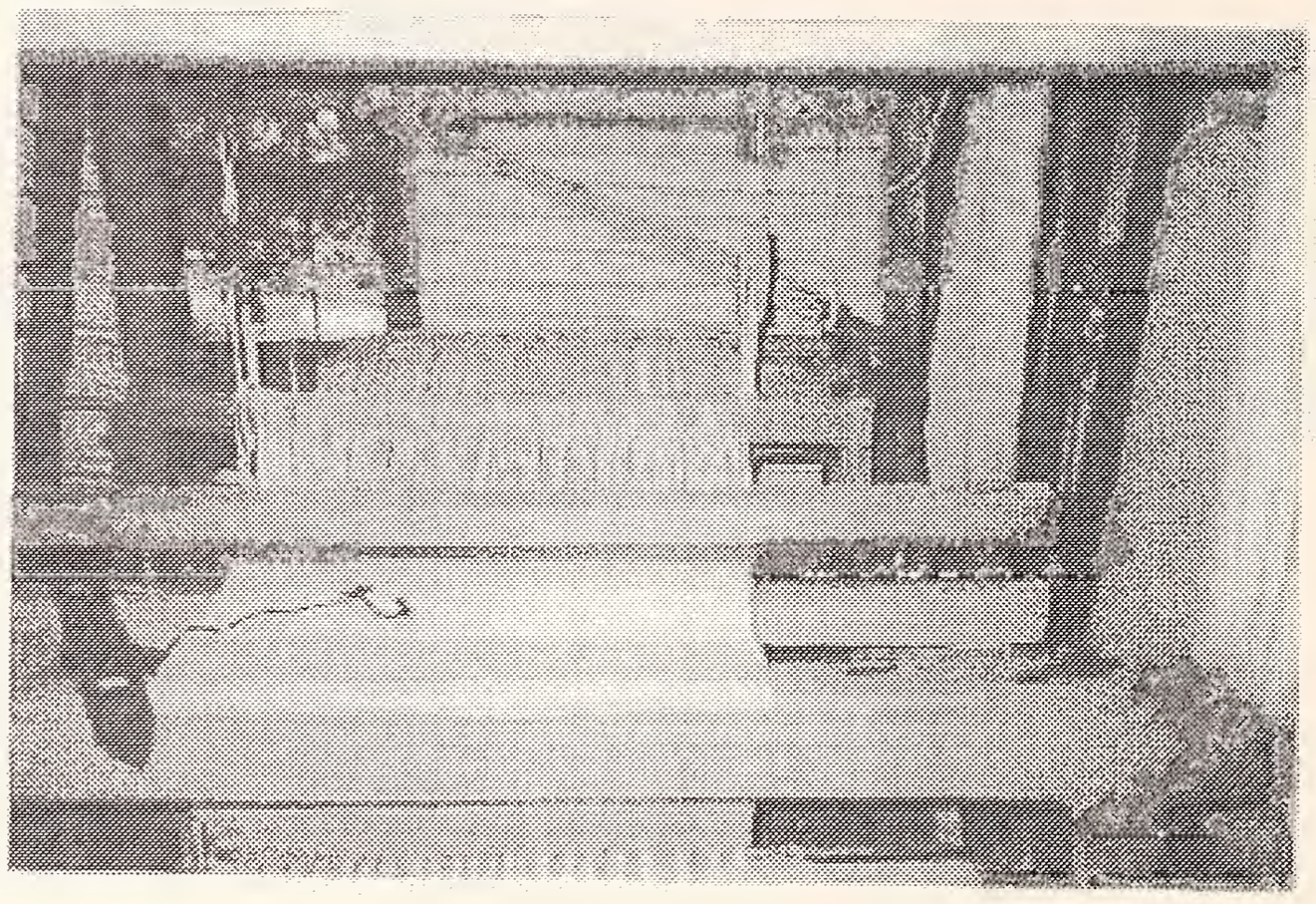
THE "GREAT WHEEL" for spinning wool

There was a total of 94 family looms in the town .
with "454 woolen and linen (spinning) wheels"
The total value of both woolen and linen cloth made that year from the loom was $11,104.40 ,

There was a total of 3035 sheep.
The value of leather manufactured came to $800;

The amount from hats manufactured in Middletown came to $1760.00. Since every one in town seemed to have contributed 20 hats it appears for that product at least it must have been a cooperative effort or so it would seem.
One saddle maker who made 40 saddles that year which sold for $15 each making a total of $600.

"The whole number of souls in Middletown" came to 1207 and that included "blacks" consisting of 67 males and 1 female aged 45 and upward.



HENRY'S FAMILY HAD ONE LOOM

MAKING LINEN CLOTH

The making of linen cloth was a time consuming and lengthy and labor intensive process. First the flax must be grown then harvested. The the seeds were removed from the flax by pulling the fibers through a rippling comb until all the seeds fell off. After that came a process called retting in which the flax had to be soaked in a stream or laid out on a dewy field to remove the gummy sap which bound the valuable fibers to the stalk's.

The next step is called braking or beatling in which flax plant needed to be separated from the surrounding fibers by being broken into pieces.

Next came the scutching or wingling which transformed the flax into a soft, pliable fiber. Hackling, involved drawing bunches of flax fibers through a series of one to three combs which graduated from coarse to fine.

The flax then needed to be spun, then the yarn needed to be removed from the spinning wheel bobbin then to wound into measured skeins. Next the loom needed to be set up with cross yarns called the warp and weft.

The flax could be dyed with dyes made from such materials as indigo, walnut hulls, and tree bark.

Unless it was to be dyed or used "brown," linen had to be bleached. Bleaching the flax is the part I find the most interesting. In a paper written by Mr. John Riley in 1765, he described the bleaching process:

1. Soak linen 36 to 40 hours in warm water, rinse and dry.
2. Soak in lye and cow dung 48 hours.
3. Stretch cloth over the grass in a bleach-yard.
4. Wash off the cow dung.
5. Beat cloth with "bat staffs" 2 to 3 hours.
6. Place cloth into boiling lye; soak 24 hours.
7. Wash cloth; stretch it over the bleach-green 24 hours.
8. Beat with bat staffs.
9. Repeat the last three steps for 8 to 10 days.
10. Place cloth in buttermilk for 1 or 2 nights.
11. Wash and beat the cloth again, then stretch it over the bleach-green.
12. Soak it again in buttermilk.
13. Repeat the process for another week, until the cloth is white enough.

*(taken from the Woolen Textiles in the American Colonies and Early United States found on the following website---
<http://artemis.simmons.edu/~lieb/wool.htm>

HENRY GOES TO WAR AGAIN

On June first of 1812 President James Madison asked Congress to declare war against Great Britain. He gave as his reasons the impressment of United States seamen and the interference with United States trade. He charged that the British had stirred up Indian warfare in the Northwest. Two days before the War of 1812 began with Great Britain, the British Government stated that they would repeal the laws that were the chief excuse for fighting.

Communication was slow then. No cable across the ocean to transmit that message and so the war began.

In Sept. 1812 Henry enlisted again, this time as a Corporal under Capt. Micah Brown in the Regiment of the Militia for Vermont. He was 51 years old and he served for three months, from September to December.

On July 20, 1832, in Middletown, Rutland, Vermont, at age 71, Henry applied for his military pension. His pension of $39.78 per year was allowed, and was to begin 4 March 1848. Apparently the wheels of the federal government moved slowly even then.

MARY WOODHOUSE 1787-1868
JEREMIAH MCCUMBER 1791-1879

Henry and Catherine's daughter Mary married Jeremiah McCumber. Jeremiah was born in Tiverton, Bristol County, Rhode Island on February 13,1791 and was the fourth child and third son of Job McCumber of Scottish descent who emigrated to this country about the year 1750, in company of his brother Benjamin. He was reared in Westport, Mass. and at the age of sixteen he started out for New Bedford on a whaling voyage but after being out seven weeks, the vessel was ordered to report to New Bedford, as the war of 1812 had been declared. For two years after that Jeremiah followed coasting winters, and cod-fishing summers. He then began an apprenticeship at shoemaking.

JEREMIAH McCUMBER

"In 1813 he removed to Danby, Rutland County, Vermont and in 1815 married Mary Woodhouse, of Middletown Rutland Co. They had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Nelson Slawson, of Chemung, N.Y. Elizabeth died March 22, 1846, leaving two sons, Jeremiah and William B. The latter worked as a reporter on the Orange County Press. Jeremiah saw to it that his grandsons got an education

"In 1817 Jeremiah removed to the town of Chemung, Tioga County, New York, where he has remained. He purchased land, cleared a large tract of land, and continued improving it as long as able to work. Engaged for a time in the lumber trade and aided in the erection of lumber-mills near his present residence. He served the town as assessor, commissioner, and justice of the peace.

Mary Woodhouse McCumber, died February 1, 1868, aged eighty years, three months, and thirteen days.

"Jeremiah married his second wife his brothers widow, Mrs. Nancy McCumber, September 7, 1868. "McCumbers Corners" was damaged by fire in 1875, and Jeremiah lost his home. After the fire

Jeremiah and Nancy lived with his nephew Calvin Woodhouse. He apparently was well loved in the community and was called "Uncle Jerry McCumber.

HENRY AND CATHERINE IN CHEMUNG, N.Y.

Sometime between the 1830 and 1840 Henry and Catherine removed to Chemung County where they lived out their lives with their daughter Mary and her family.

When Henry and Catherine lived with Mary and Jeremiah in Baldwin, Chemung County, N.Y. Jeremiah took them to Elmira twice to take care of Henry's military pension business and he apparently was told he would be compensated for his trouble. He wrote to a Mr. Daniel French, the husband of one of Catherine's nieces. "If you see proper to send me reasonable compensation I should be well pleased."

OTHER CHILDREN WENT WITH THEM TO CHEMUNG

At least five of Henry and Catherine's nine children went to live in Chemung County, New York. Beside Mary and Jeremiah there was their son **William** and his wife Lucy Kimball. Lucy was born November 18, 1803. William and Lucy had six children that we know of. A daughter Charlotte who was born September 22, 1828 in Middletown Springs, Rutland, Vermont. Charlotte married Nehemia Cooper. Their daughter Martha who married Robert G.L. Pierce. Their son Charles D. Woodhouse was born December 16, 1834 in Middletown Springs, Rutland, Vermont. Charles married Sarah Bright. William's wife Lucy died September 2, 1856, 52 years, 9 months and 15 days. William died 1877 and both he and Lucy are buried in the McCumber Cemetery #2.

Arba, their sixth child, was a shoemaker and farmer with two acres of land in the Town of Baldwin, Chemung County. He was 77 years old when he died on February 7, 1876 and is buried in the McCumber Cemetery #1.

Orange Woodhouse and his wife Cloa had eight children. There are Zina born 1833; Polly born 1835; George born 1837; William born 1838; Almina born 1840; Henry born 1842; Orson born 1845; and lastly Martha whose birth date is not known at this time. All eight children are reportedly born in the state of New York. In the

1850 Federal census Orange is listed as a farmer with real estate valued at $500. Orange died June 15, 1853 at 49 years 11 months and 8 days of age. He is buried in McCumber Cemetery #2,

Henry and Catherine's daughters **Sally,** and **Philinda** appear to have married before 1820. **Chester**, about 20 years old, was still living at home at home but is unaccounted for after 1820.

On October 6, 1841 Henry died in the town of Chemung, New York at age 80 years. He is buried in the McCumber #2 Cemetery. Catherine applied for her widows pension on June 24, 1850 . On October 16, 1855 her son Arba submitted a hand written copy of the family bible record listing the names and birth dates of Henry and Catherine's children. Her son William testified in writing that the bible record was correct. Catherine's grandson Charles, son of William and Lucy, also testified to the validity of the bible record.

Two large cemeteries were named for the McCumber family. Most of Henry and Catherine's families are buried in these cemeteries. Jeremiah McCumber died February 28, 1879 at 88 years and 15 days.

This brings us to her son **LEONARD** from whom we descend. Leonard didn't go to Chemung County with his parents and some of his siblings. He had already removed to Erie County, New York and married **EMILY SMITH**. They lived near Emily's family in Hamburg, New York.

CHAPTER THREE

LEONARD AND EMILY WOODHOUSE

MARRIED IN RUTLAND, VERMONT

(DATE UNKNOWN)

CHILDREN:

JAMES MONROE - 1828 (CHAPTER 5)
HORACE - 1831 (CHAPTER 5)
HELEN M. - 1834
JULIA - 1837 (CHAPTER 4)

LEONARD WOODHOUSE 1802 to 1841
EMILY SMITH 1806 to 1861

Leonard Woodhouse3 (Henry2, William1) **and Emily Smith** are the "grandparents " from whom we are descended in this generation. Leonard was born February 25, 1802 in Middletown Spring, Rutland, Vermont. He was the eighth child, of nine children born to Henry and Catherine Woodhouse and he was the fifth of their six sons. Emily Smith, was the daughter of Ezekiel M. Smith, Jr. and Rhoba Allen and was born February 28, 1806 in Danby, Vermont. Danby is not far from Middletown Spring where Leonard was born.

The ancestry of Emily Smith is found in the book **JOHN SMITH THE MILLER OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND and some of his descendants---** It states that "JOHN SMITH, born in 1595 (presumably in England) was of Dorchester, Massachusetts, when he joined Roger Williams and four others in the spring or summer of 1636 to make the first settlement in Providence.
"Roger Williams stated on 17 November 1677: 'I consented to John Smith, Miller, at Dorchester (banned also) to go with me." The General Court of Massachusetts had ordered on 3 September 1635, "that John Smyth shalbe sent within theis 6 weekes out of this jurisdiccion for dyvers dangerous opinions, wch hee holdeth, & hath dyvulged, if in the means tyme he removes not himself out of this plantacion."

DEACON EZEKIEL SMITH & FAMILY

Between 1789 and 1869 the Holland Land Company purchased large blocks of land in Western New York. In the spring of 1804 Deacon Ezekiel Smith, Emily's grandfather, went to Erie County, New York from Danby, Vermont with two of his sons and bought a tract of land.

"That same spring {1804} Deacon Ezekiel Smith came from Vermont with his two sons, Richard and Daniel, and bought a tract of land two miles southeast of Kinney's in what has since been known as the Newton Neighborhood. A young man named David Eddy came with him and selected land near Potter's Corners. Smith returned for his family, leaving his sons to clear land." "In September he came back, with his wife , and several daughters, and two or three

others, and five more sons, Amasa, **Ezekiel**, Zenas, Amiah and Almon. Such a family was of itself enough to start a pretty good settlement. Four of the seven sons were married. With them came another big Vermont family, headed by Amos Colvin, with his sons Jacob, George, Luther, Amos and Isaac."

"One of Deacon Smith's daughters, Sarah, was then a bride of seventeen, the wife of Jacob Colvin. She was still living (1876) at the age of eighty nine, and well known throughout East Hamburg as "Aunt Sarah Colvin." she came, a married woman, into the wilderness; she saw the wolves and bears prowling around the cabins of the earliest settlers; she saw the forest give place to broad and fertile fields; she passed, more than sixty years ago, through the alarms of border war, and still remains a remarkable example of the vigorous pioneer women of Erie county." (From "The History of Erie County")

The place where Deacon Ezekiel Smith built was called by several names over the years. It was at one time called Smiths Corners but is now called Orchard Park and part of the town of Hamburg. There is an Ezekiel Smith Cemetery in Hamburg.

Ezekiel M. Smith,Jr. and **Rhoba Allen,** Emily's parents, were married November 7, 1802. Their first two children, Ezekiel H. Smith and Emily were born in Danby, Vermont. When Emily was only seven years old her father died in the service of the United States in the war of 1812. He was a Captain in the New York Militia in the regiment commanded by Colonel Warren. Her father was made a prisoner at or near Beaver Dam in Canada while on his way home, and he died July 25, 1813 at Youngstown, New York.

Sometime between 1813 and 1816 Rhoba and her two children , made their way to Erie County. Three years after her fathers death, when Emily was ten years old, her mother married a Mr. William O'dell. Shortly after the marriage however, William O'dell went west to find land in Iowa. When he sent for the family, Rhoba refused to go with him because she didn't want to leave her family and friends and live in the wilds of Iowa. Friends who had been to visit O'dell in Iowa told Rhoba that he had found another woman who apparently was willing to live there. Not long after that William O'dell died, again leaving Rhoba a widow.

Daniel Smith, Emily's uncle, was one of the enterprising and inventive men of those early days. He started a little corn mill in 1808. "Thinking that he could do more business in the valley of the Eighteen Mile, he moved it over there, just above the site of White's Corners. But the building of a dam was beyond his resources, and needless for that size of mill. So he felled a big hemlock across the stream, fastened some more logs to it, and thus created an obstruction which threw enough water around the end of the tree to run his mill."

By 1811 Daniel Smith, had, with his brother Richard, built a regular grist-mill which then began to be known by the name of Smith's Mills."

Leonard Woodhouse was still at home in Vermont in 1820 and it is not known exactly what year he left Middletown Springs, Vermont and went to Erie County, New York It is reasonable to believe that the construction of the Erie Canal might have enticed a young man of Leonards age, to leave home to find work on that major project.

THE ERIE CANAL, was the engineering marvel of its day. Roads had to be built every step of the way as work progressed to bring in supplies. With the exception of a few places where black powder was used to blast through rock formations, all 363 miles were built by the muscle power of men and horses alone.

When the Erie Canal was opened finally, eight years after Gov. DeWitt Clinton first broke ground, there was a huge celebration in Buffalo, as described in the History of Erie County, New York.

"From Albany to Buffalo everybody was in a state of excitement over the canal and the celebration. Even New York City took an active part. Nowhere was the feeling stronger than at Buffalo, which at length saw its hopes of greatness approaching realization. The whole of Erie County was deeply interested in the event about to be celebrated, for it not only provided the people with an unfailing outlet for their surplus produce, but it brought to their doors the market which a great city always affords."

There were bands and banners. Captain Rathbun's rifle company marched with groups of canal diggers, mechanics, ax men, stone cutters, masons, ship carpenters, and sailors of the lake with their officers. Then came the citizens in general, then a body of military officers in uniform, members of the village and group after group marched in the parade of folks who either contributed to the building of the Erie Canal or had a vested interest in it's development."

"Then at precisely 10 o'clock, the boat moved off, and, as it did so, a 32 pound cannon on the bank was fired. Before its echoes died away, it was responded to by another gun far down the canal; and those who listened closely for a moment more might perchance, have heard still another faint report, from a yet greater distance. The grand State salute was being fired. All along the canal, from Buffalo to Albany, heavy pieces of artillery had been stationed within hearing distance of each other and the shot fired at Buffalo was repeated by gun after gun, as fast as sound could travel."

"As the designated hour drew near, the force at the Mountain Ridge was largely increased, and even then there was not time to spare, It was not till the evening of the 24th of October that the guard gates were opened, and the filling of the Lake Erie level commenced, and not till the evening of the 25th that the entire canal was provided with water, and ready for navigation.

"More than a feat of engineering, the Erie Canal proved to be the key that unlocked an enormous series of social and economic changes in the young nation. The Canal spurred the first great westward movement of American settlers, gave access to the rich land and resources west of the Appalachians and made New York the preeminent commercial city in the United States."

There after the Erie Canal played an important part in the opening of what is now called the midwestern states. Travel by boat on the Erie Canal became an important mode of travel but for a long time stage coach was still the most frequent mode of travel.

LEONARD AND EMILY SMITH MARRY

Sometime around 1826 or 1827 Emily Smith and Leonard were married. Early marriages were not recorded but since her grandfather was called "Deacon Ezekiel Smith" we wonder if perhaps he performed their wedding ceremony.

Leonard and Emily's first son, **James Monroe Woodhouse,** was born October 16, 1828 in Hamburg, Erie County, New York. Then July 26, 1831 their second son **Horace Woodhouse** was born in Hamburg, New York. Their third child, a baby girl was named **Helen M.**. She was born July 3, 1834 and lived only 6 months and 14 days. Little Helen is buried in the Prospect Lawn Cemetery in Hamburg. Another daughter, **Julia Woodhouse** was born November 23, 1837 in Hamburg.

In 1830 Leonard and Emily and their two year old son James, were living in what is now called Hamburg, in Erie County. A boy 15 to 20 years and a girl 10 to 15 years of age were living in their household but they are not identified at this time. Emily's mother, "Roby

Smith" was living next door and on the other side of her home was Emily's 46 year old uncle. Zenus Smith.

On June 17, 1831 Emily's mother, Rhoba, married her first husbands brother, Emily's uncle **Daniel Smith,** in Hamburg. Then on October 10, 1842 Daniel petitioned for divorce from Rhoba because she had "absented herself from her husband without any just cause for more than one year", and the marriage was dissolved. Rhoba was living with her son William O'dell Jr. at that time.

In April 1841 two very sad things happened. The first stunned the whole nation. President William Henry Harrison had just taken office on March and was working on political appointments, with Henry Clay, the Whig leader in Congress to work out the legislative program. It was a cold and blustery April and Harrison "took a chill" that proved fatal. He died exactly 30 days and 12 hours after he was inaugurated.

Meanwhile, exactly two days later, on April 6, 1841, Leonard Woodhouse died in Hamburg, at age 39. The cause is not known at this time. Emily was left a widow at age 35.

Emily never remarried and she died April 21, 1861 and is buried along side Leonard in Prospect Lawn Cemetery in Hamburg. Beside them is their baby Helen M. and Willie Woodhouse, son of James and Mary L. Woodhouse.

Leonard, Emily, Helen M. and Willie Woodhouse, Hamburg, N.Y.

footnotes:
* From the book John Smith the Miller of Rhode Island states: Emily's mothers name was probably Rhoda Burlingame. Another source says she was Rhoba Allen.
** Centennial History of Erie County, New York pub. 1876
*** from web site "The Erie Canal - A Brief History".

CHAPTER FOUR

JULIA & HENRY CANFIELD

MARRIED DECEMBER 31, 1863
HAMBURG, NEW YORK

CHILDREN:

CHARLES (D.O.B. UNKNOWN)
HORACE LEONARD - 1865
OLIVER 1870
GEORGE EDWARD (D.O.B. UNKNOWN)

JULIA WOODHOUSE 1837 to after 1890
HENRY CANFIELD 1820 to before 1890

Julia Woodhouse4 (Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was the youngest child of Leonard and Emily Woodhouse. She was born November 23, 1837 in Hamburg, two years after baby Helen M. who died at age 6 months and 14 days. Infant mortality was high in those days. Julia was only three years old when her father died, probably stayed on at home with her mother, Emily after her brothers left home.

Henry Canfield was born in Hamburg, New York on December 20, 1820. He was married first to Sarah Ann Degraff June 5, 1845. Henry and Sarah lived in Whites Corners which later became known as Hamburg. Henry was a wagon maker and a carpenter. He was at one time a Deputy Sheriff, a Collector of Taxes and Constable in the Town of Hamburg.

Henry and Sarah had three children. The first two children, Horace W. and Phebe Marie died within a day of each other in September 1850. Henry and Sarah's son Charles, who survived, went on to marry Mary O'dell, a daughter of Charles O'dell.

Sarah Degraff Canfield died March 11, 1863.

Julia's mother Emily died in April 2, 1861 and at age 26 Julia married the widower **Henry Canfield** on December 31, 1863. Henry was seventeen years older than Julia. All of Julia's family members would be gathered for the wedding and probably Henry's son Charlie was there too.

Julia and Henry had three more children. They were **Horace Leonard3**, called by his middle name Leonard for Julias father, and little **Oliver3** who died in 1872, less than two years old. There was another son **George Edward3** whom they called Eddie.

Julia and Henry's son Horace Leonard was born May 12, 1865 near the end of the Civil War. Leonard married Melissa O'dell In 1884 in Hamburg and they had children Oliver, Ina and Leon.

HENRY and JULIA CANFIELD

After James and Horace had left Hamburg for the Midwest, Julia and her brother's remained in touch. In a note with a promise to send a photo of his new wife Julia A. Thompson, now Wood house, James mentions that he expects Horace to make a trip over from Michigan (to Wisconsin) to visit sometime soon. That would have been quite a trip in those days.

Henry Canfield died before 1890. Julia was still living in Hamburg in 1890.

CHAPTER FIVE

HORACE & ANNA M. WOODHOUSE

MARRIED JANUARY 20, 1859

HAMBURG, N. Y.TO ILLINOIS,

TO MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

WORTHY HORACE - 1860 (CHAPTER 6)
HOWARD INTHUS - 1863 (CHAPTER 9)
MINERVA EMILY - 1876 (CHAPTER
ENSIGN E. - 1880 (CHAPTER 7)

CHAPTER FIVE

(CONTINUED)

JAMES & MARY LOU WOODHOUSE

MARRIED DECEMBER 29, 1859

HAMBURG, N. Y. TO WISCONSIN

CHILDREN:

FRANK LEONARD - 1860
WILLIS LEONARD - 1862
ROY F. - (UNKNOWN)
MILTON HERBET - 1866

JAMES MONROE WOODHOUSE 1828 to 1915
HORACE WOODHOUSE 1831- 1904

James Monroe Woodhouse4 (Leonard3, Henry2, William1) the first child of Leonard and Emily was born in Hamburg, Erie County, New York on October 16, 1828.

The same year that James was born his uncle Amasa Smith was Hamburg's town clerk for the eighth and last time. Amasa Smith had held that position since 1821. James uncle Daniel Smith had a mill in a part of Hamburg that was called Smith's Mills. Later a dry goods store and a tannery were built at Smith Mills. When James was two years old, in 1830, his uncle Elisha Smith was the Supervisor of Hamburg.

Horace Woodhouse4 (Leonard3 Henry2 William1) was born when James was three years old. As James and Horace were growing up they would have had lots of aunts and Uncles named Smith, Colvin and others, living nearby, and many cousins to play with and all would most likely have attended the same one room school.

July 3, 1834 a baby sister was born. She was named **Helen4** Baby Helen only lived six months and 14 days. What a sad time that must have been for the family. Then November 23, 1837 just before Thanksgiving day, another baby sister was born. Leonard and Emily named her **Julia4** and she thrived and lived to adulthood.

President William Henry Harrison died April 4, 1841. He had only been in office one month. Just two days later, on April 6, 1841, when Leonard Woodhouse was only 39 years old he died, leaving Emily a widow with two young boys, age 13 and 10 and Julia just three years old. James, being the eldest, would have become the man of the family. Even though Emily had many brothers and sisters living near her, she probably relied on James and Horace often in their growing up years.

When James was 27, in 1855, he bought 100 acres from his mother, Emily for $4000. That was a lot of money in those days and he must have worked hard for it. In 1856 he bought

another part of the farm from Emily with a life lease included so Emily was secure in her home for the rest of her life. She probably had a little garden for vegetables and maybe an apple and a plum tree in her yard. She probably canned the surplus fruits and vegetables. She may have had a few chickens for eggs and meat. Her family would have seen to it that she had wood, cut and split, for her cook stove and to heat her home. They may have brought her a rabbit or squirrel when they had been hunting.

As young single men, James and Horace may have had an argument or two, about who got to use the family horse and buggy for courting because the two brothers were both married the same year, 1859.

Horace and Anna Maria Ensign

Horace Woodhouse was born July 26, 1831 in Hamburg, New York. Horace would have had chores to do at an early age because he was ten years old when his father died. He would have been expected to do his share of the chores, perhaps gather the eggs from the hen house, weed the garden and sometimes take care of his little sister Julia.

Horace and James would have gone to school until at least the sixth grade, possibly through the eighth grade. Probably no more schooling than that was available to them.

On May 6, 1857 when Horace was 24 years old he bought 50 acres in the town of Evans, not far from Hamburg, in Erie County. He paid $1250 plus he agreed to pay off a previous owners mortgage of $550 for a total of $1800. In March 1859, when Horace was twenty six, he paid $3050 for "80 acres and 57 rods" of land in the town of Clarence, Erie County. These were part of a tract of land originally owned by the Holland Land Company.

The early land purchase records are interesting to read. Communities were small and everyone knew one another and many were related to each other, so a purchase description might read something like this: "is bounded as follows: three chains and 75 links north of southwest corner of said lot

three; thence north seventeen (17) chains and two links on the west line of said lot to land owned by Jacob Grove; thence east ten chains; thence north parallel to the west line of said lot forty chains to the place of beginning. Containing 80 acres and 57 rods of land." Some of the earlier descriptions state a certain number of chains and links to the large oak tree or to a pile of stones. Horace bought a third piece of land in the town of Evans.

Anna Maria Ensign9 (Ashley W.8, John7, Datus6, Datus5, David4, David3, James2, Thomas1) was born July 7, 1839 in Eden Valley, Erie County, New York to the Reverend Ashley Woolworth Ensign and **Minerva Washburn3** (Salmon2, Jonathan3). While Anna Maria's name was spelled M-a-r-i-a she was always called "Mariah" (pronounced Ma rye ah).

Maria's father was a preacher in the Baptist Church so they moved every few years. The Ensign family bible contained a copy of a church transfer dated December 20, 1855 stating "This is to certify that Sister Anna Mariah Ensign is a member in good standing with the Freewill Baptist Church in Hamburg and as such we recommend her to any Gospel Church and when united to any Such Church will be dissolved from us by Order and in behalf of the Church (of) Hamburgh. by N.W. Chandler, Church Clerk." Maria would have been 16 years old at that time.

Horace and Maria, were married January 20, 1859 in her father's home in Whites Corners, (Whites Corners later became part of Hamburg). Her father, The Reverend Ashley W. Ensign, performed the ceremony in the parlor of the family home in Whites Corners. There may have been a harmonium in the parlor and someone would have played a traditional wedding march. Lavine, Maria's sister, was her maid of honor. Horace's brother James stood up with him. What a happy as well as solemn occasion that must have been. Perhaps they stood in front of the fireplace to take their vows with the family Bible open on a stand nearby. The marriage was added to the page in the family bible where a record of all important family events were kept . Horace and Anna Maria lived in Clarence, after they were married, probably on the land Horace bought in March of 1859.

HORACE WOODHOUSE

ANNA MARIA ENSIGN WOODHOUSE

James and Mary L. Skinner were married the same year on December 29, 1859 in Hamburg, by L. T. White. They were

most likely married in the parlor of Mary's parents home as was the custom. Since it was only a few days after Christmas perhaps a Christmas tree was left up in the parlor for the occasion. It would be trimmed with garlands of cranberry and popcorn, Little red bows and small candles in holders might be on the tree. The house perhaps still filled with pine boughs with red ribbons and candles would have been placed about the parlor and on the mantle of the fireplace. The smell of fresh pine boughs and bayberry would have filled the air.

During both of the brothers marriages, all of James' and Horaces' aunts, and uncles and cousins would be gathered and standing around them in front of the fireplace. Everyone would be wearing their one best dress or suit. Emily, their mother, and grandma Rhoba would of course have sat in a special place of honor where they could see and hear the bride and groom repeat their marriage vows. The brides families would be gathered around too. The parlor would have been crowded. Since James was the best man for Horace's wedding perhaps Horace stood up with his brother James. Maybe little fruit cakes, and other pastries were served after the ceremonies, amid all the hugs, hand shaking and good wishes for a happy life together.

Rhoba, their grandmother, died January 15, 1860, less than three weeks after James wedding She may have been able to attend the weddings but she didn't get to see her first great grandchildren that came of these two grandsons marriages

Horace and Anna Maria's first child was born July 17, 1860 They named him **Worthy Horace Woodhouse5** (Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1). Their second son was **Howard Inthus Woodhouse5** (Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) born on July 7 1863.

James and Mary's first child, also a boy was born November 21, 1860. He was called **Frank Leonard Woodhouse6.** James and Mary were blest with a second son whom they called **Willis Leonard Woodhouse6.** He was born July 19, 1862 and they called him Willie. All four boys were born in Hamburg.

Emily had been a grandmother for less than a year when on the 21st of April 1861 she died at age 55 years.

THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865

In 1864, when James was 29 and Horace 27 years old, the Civil War with the South had been raging for three years and the losses were great. The war was not going well for the Union Army. More soldiers were needed in Virginia and men were urged to volunteer for the New York National Guard for 100 days, with the promise of bounty land or a cash bonus afterward.

James and Horace must have made the decision to enlist together, because in July 1864 James and Horace enlisted at the same day. Anna Maria's brother Emory also enlisted at the same time. All three left August 10, 1864 and were mustered out December 22, 1864.

Anna Maria's brother **Emory Eaton Ensign3,** (Salmon2, Jonathon1) was born in Eden Valley, Erie County, New York. He married Amanda C. Van Epps in Hamburg, N.Y. November 16, 1862. He served in the Sixty Seventh Regiment, Thirty Second Brigade, Eighth Division National Guard for the State of New York. He left August 10, 1864. He was 24 years old when he was discharged on December 22, 1864. He was described as 6 foot one inch tall with gray eyes and brown hair. Emory served in the Civil War as a blacksmith and he continued working as a blacksmith after the war in Weyauwega, Wisconsin. He died there May 10, 1903 at age 62.

As happens in all wars, Mary and Maria remained at home with their children while their husbands went to war. They were surrounded by the Smith relatives who would have helped them when needed. Mary and Maria each had two little boys to care for, and provide for, while their men were at war. Frank Leonard was four and Willie was two years. Worthy Horace was four and Howard was 13 months.
Horace and James began their three months service in Company "D", 98th Regiment of the National Guard of New York. The 98th left from Buffalo on August 10th to report for duty in Elmira, N.Y.. Other Erie County men in the 99th

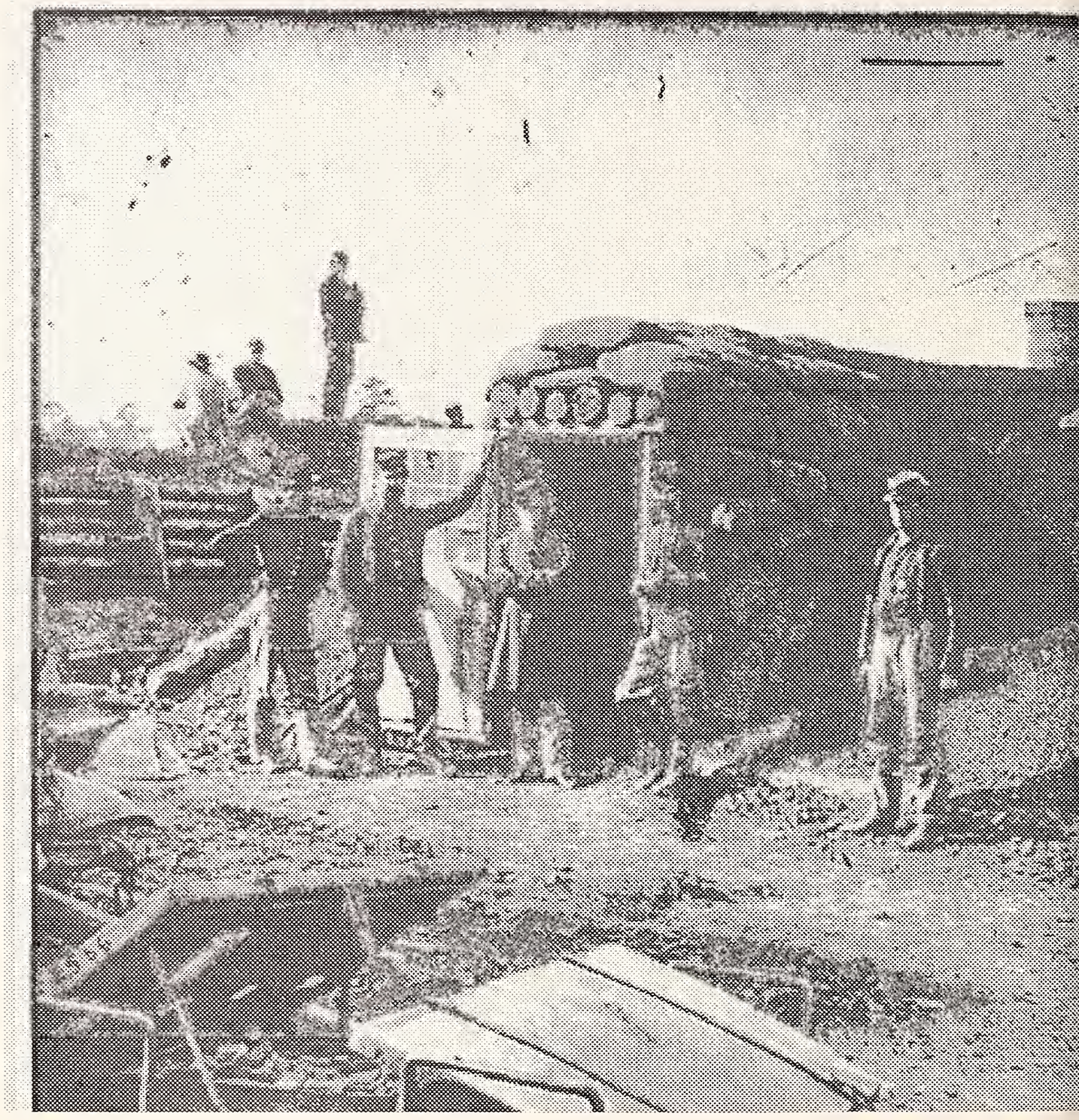
National Guard Regiment had left from Buffalo, for Elmira, a few days earlierFrom Elmira, N.Y. the 98th Regiment was sent to Virginia. Both brothers began as privates and James was soon made a sergeant and Horace a corporal. It is not known if the brothers were together throughout their enlistment. Horace was stationed first near Petersburg, Virginia. Morning Reports for Company D for August read: "front line works and front line entrenchment" near Point Rocks. Point Rocks is located near the James River. For all of September and October Company D was stationed at Bermuda Hundred, Virginia.

In November they were at Fort Harrison, Virginia. December they were at Fort Burnham, Virginia. Fort Harrison became known as Fort Burnham after the Union soldiers took it over, so they actually spent November and December at the same place.

The Morning Reports show that at the end of their 100 days the regiment was sent to Troy, New York but after 10 days, they returned to Fort Burnham. They were mustered out on December 22, 1864. All told Horace and James Woodhouse and Emory E. Ensign each served a total of 134 days before they could return home to their families.

There is a family story, not documented, that Horace was captured soon after arriving in Virginia and put in a "big prison camp" in which conditions were terrible and disease was rampant. Horace suffered the rest of his life as a result of these conditions. When Horace applied for his Military Invalid Pension, at age 60 years, a doctor's report stated that he suffered from lung disease, disease of the rectum, and a heart murmur. The doctor reported him to be 5 foot 9 inches tall, with blue eyes, weighing 135 pounds.

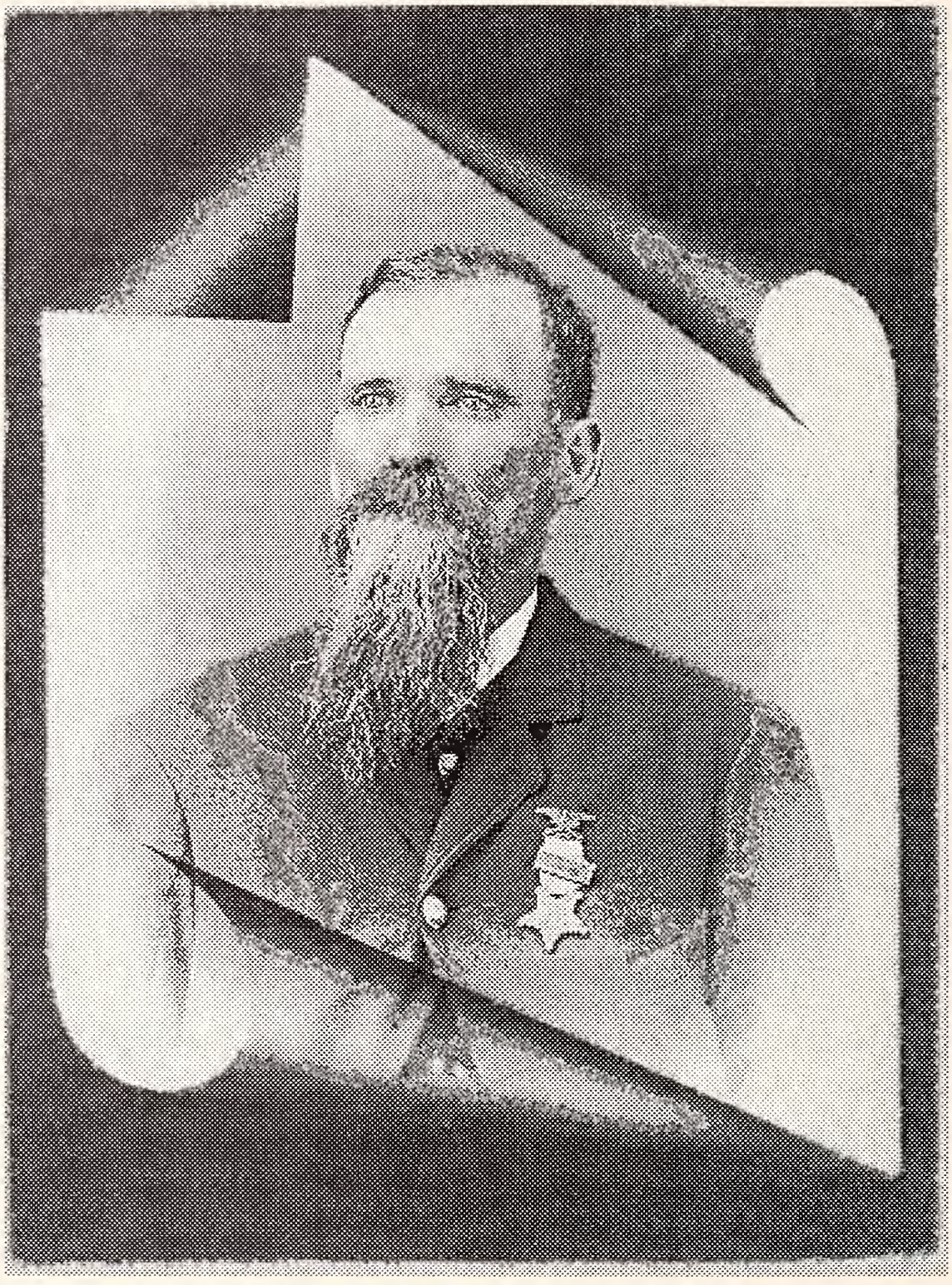
IN THE TRENCHES
FEDERAL LINE NEAR PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA



BOMB PROOF HEADQUARTERS AT FT. BURNHAM, VIRGINIA

FEDERAL ENCAMPMENT-CUMBERLAND LANDING

James and Mary's little son Willis Leonard died May 23, 1865 at age two years and five months. He is buried in Hamburg in Prospect Lawn Park Cemetery beside his grandparents, Leonard and Emily and baby Helen M. What a heartbreaking time this was for the family.



HORACE WOODHOUSE AFTER CIVIL WAR

HORACE AND JAMES GO WEST

After the Civil War there were many soldiers with bounty land, and money from the sale of bounty land, who were looking to relocate where they could get the most good farm land for their money. Ads were often found in fliers and newspapers

hoping to attract farmers and businessmen to help build a community. Horace Greeley of the New York Times had been urging young men to "go west".

It appears that James and Horace got their bounty land, sold it along with any property they had bought earlier, because they soon started west with their families in tow. This must have been seen as a wonderful adventure but also difficult in a sense. They would have packed everything that could be carried with them, left their homes, families and their friends, they had lived among all your lives, then starting out for an unknown wilderness. Adventure indeed!

James and Horace would have wanted to get settled on new farm land as soon as possible so they could do what ever necessary to prepare the land for planting. This was their livelihood and these things needed to be planned carefully.

The railroads were pretty well established by then and their possessions could have been taken with them as freight. This would have been quicker and easier means of travel, but perhaps more expensive. Instead they most likely would have traveled by horse drawn wagons and taken everything they could carry in the wagons. This way they could have taken their livestock with them.

So, still grieving for the loss of little Willie, they began their journey. The two families most likely traveled together, in 1865. They probably traveled down the edge of Lake Erie and then on west. **Emory E. Ensign**[9] (Ashley[8], John[7], Datus[6], Datus[5], David[4], David[3], James[2], Thomas[1])and his family may have traveled with them because he ended up living in Weyauwega, Wisconsin with a blacksmith shop.

Horace and Anna Maria went to Gridley, Illinois for an unknown period of time and it is unclear why they stopped in Gridley. Gridley history shows there was not much by the way of a community in Gridley at that time. No bank yet in the 1860's. In the 1870's there was a little progress, with a drug store and a doctor, but not much else. Possibly they went to Gridley because of the Homestead Act of 1862 where land had

been opened up in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan, a law that would transfer millions of acres to settlers virtually free of charge. The base price of public land was lowered from $2 to $1.25 an acre and the minimum purchase was reduced from 160 to as few as 80 acres. Heads of household, widows and singles of 21 who were citizens, or had declared their intention to become citizens, were granted the right to settle on 160 acres of unoccupied public land, which, provided that he cultivated it, he would own after living on it for five continuous years.

In 1873 there was a nationwide economic panic and perhaps this was a factor in Horace and Anna Maria's decision to leave Gridley. Horace' health was not good after the war and he may have had a hard time providing for his family. At some point they back tracked and went north into Michigan. They made their way to Hillsdale County near Maria's parents. The Rev. A.W. Ensign was preaching at the Cooks Prairie Freewill Baptist Church in Hillsdale from 1870-1872, and later in Washtenaw County. They may have lived with Maria's family for a time and moved with them as the Reverend A. W. Ensign was called to another church in a different town.

Horace and Anna Maria's third child was named **Minerva Emily5** (Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) for her two grandmothers. Baby "Emma", as she was called, was born December 22, 1876 in Hillsdale County, Michigan. Sometime around 1879 or 1880 Horace and his family moved north to Mears, Oceana County, Michigan. They came in a horse drawn wagon. Worthy, was about 20 years old and Howard was 17, Emma would have been about four years old.

Their youngest son **Ensign E. Woodhouse5** (Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born in Mears on November 6, 1880.

When Horace and Anna Maria first came to Mears, Michigan, about 1880, there was no Rural Free Delivery yet. Folks living in the surrounding farming community had to drive their horse and buggy, or walk into Mears to pick up their mail. Later it was delivered to a few places in the rural areas and families

could get their mail from a box on a corner.

The railroad that went through Mears to Pentwater made a regular stop in Mears and was very important to the development of Golden Township where Horace and his family settled. The train by passed Hart and it was sometime later that a four mile spur was added to include Hart.

There were one room schools in Golden township that went through the eighth grade for Emma to attend. Mears was surrounded by a white pine forest and the children in town and on nearby farms walked a long path through the pine forest to school. There were still a few trees as large as four feet across when cut. Some children who finished the eighth grade were able to make arrangements to board with a family in Hart for more education. Most helped with the farming at home after eighth grade graduation.

In 1900 there was an outbreak of small pox in Oceana County and a few cases were reported in Mears. In April of 1901 however the town of Hart was under quarantine for small pox. A few years later typhoid fever was reported in Hart.

On September 6, 1901 in Buffalo, New York, President William McKinley was shot while speaking at the Worlds Fair. He died on the 14th and his funeral was held September 16th. That news reached Mears quicker than most news. The assassin was caught and was electrocuted. In 1902 a monument was unveiled in Hackley Park in Muskegon, Michigan. It was a huge event with a parade. Soldiers and marines marched, and bands played. Many Mears families took the daily morning train from Mears to Muskegon to see the celebration. and then rode the train home again in the evening.

Peaches grow well in Oceana County and as early as the year 1900 farmers were shipping their peaches by the bushel to family and friends. They were shipped by rail within the state and could be shipped by railroad north to Ludington, then taken across Lake Michigan by freighter, then by railroad again to their destination. A letter from Maria's brother, Emory E. Ensign reported that "the peaches arrived in splendid condition" and he ordered more of them.

In the fall, around November, many families gathered beechnuts., walnuts and butternuts. Sometimes they were boxed up and sent to family and friends as gifts.

In late fall cabbages, carrots and turnips were pulled from the garden and stored in a root cellar for winter use. Apples were wrapped individually and stored in a cellar. Spie apples could be bought for 25 cents per bushel. The Northern Spy variety of apple "winter over" best and are hard and tart and make wonderful pies and cobblers.

Oysters were shipped in and available in Mears and families bought several quarts at a time and shared them with other family members who lived nearby. They picked wintergreen berries by the pint to snack on.

Then there was wood to be cut and split and stacked for the cold Michigan winter months.

Water was pumped from a windmill, which was positioned in the yard near the house. In the earlier days the water had to be pumped outside using a long handle that was pumped up and down to bring the water up to the surface and into a pail that was hung on the spout. Sometimes the pump needed to be primed by pouring a little water in the top of the pump to get it started. On a hot summer day that water was the coldest and best tasting water **ever**!

After water was finally pumped into the house, the windmill still needed to pump water for the livestock as well as for family needs so if it was running into the livestock trough, down by the barn, the family had no water in the house until the trough was full and the supply was turned off outside.

Prices in Mears in the early 1900's are worth noting. "Overshoes" could be bought in Mears for $2.15 and shoes for $2.00. Butter could be bought from a neighbor for 5 cents a pound. The Farm Journal magazine subscription was 50 cents for five years and the Michigan Farmer was 60 cents for one year.

Worthy Horace Woodhouse and Margaret F. Smith Lyttle were married August 13, 1883 and bought a farm in Benona Township a few miles outside of Mears. Maggie, as she was called, was born in Antrim, Cornark County, Northern Ireland. Lyle's letter remembering Maggie, Worthy's community involvement.

October 2, 1902 **Emma Woodhouse5** and **Thompson S. Stout** were married and "set up housekeeping" on their farm. They had four children. Three daughters **Enola, Mary Jane and Audrey.** and they had a baby boy on December 14,1905 and named him **Travis**. All 6th generation Woodhouse.

Howard I. Woodhouse married a local girl, **Nellie Evelyn Barton8** (Jesse D.7, William6, Jeremiah5, Isaac4, Roger3, Roger2, Roger1) daughter of Jesse Daniel Barton and Mary Lucy Brown Barton. They were married on Nellie's birthday, November 10, 1894 in Mears.

Howard and Nellie's son Philip E. Woodhouse, who was my father, told me of his memories of his grandmother, Maria Woodhouse. He said that among the things he remembered was that she had three cats. She always ate a piece of cheese before she went to bed and that "milk of magnesia came in a block like a cake of soap" and Maria would scrape some off with a knife.

MEARS IN THE EARLY 1900'S

In February people living near Silver Lake could drive their horse drawn sleighs on the lake and something akin to a roadway was made along the edge of the lake by those who used it.

In February blocks of ice about 16" by 16" were cut from Silver Lake to store in an "ice house" in layers with saw dust between. This kept the ice through the summer to preserve food in an "ice box" in the home. As many as 100 cakes of ice were stored in this manner for one family. Help for this job could be had for 8 cents per cake of ice.

Ice cream was made in a hand cranked freezer, any time of

year and for special occasions or no occasion. It tasted all the better for having taken your turn at turning the crank for awhile. *Recipe next page

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM RECIPE

You will need one old fashioned hand cranked freezer
Lots of crushed ice
Some coarse salt

.2 cups sugar
4 eggs
4 tablespoons flour
2 quarts milk
1 pint cream
2 tablespoons vanilla

"SCALD" the milk first (bring it to the boiling point but be careful to not let it burn on the bottom) Beat eggs, sugar & flour together. Then add the hot milk slowly & bring to boiling point (again watch it carefully so it doesn't burn.)

COOL, then add the cream and put into the metal freezer container.
Put the metal container with the ice cream into the wooden container. Distribute crushed ice in the wooden container.
As you add the crushed ice layer it with coarse salt. Be sure the lid is on the metal container tightly so salt does not to get into the ice cream.
Attach the hand crank cover on the top of the metal container and secure it to the wooden container. Turn the crank until you can't turn it any more and that means the ice cream is frozen and ready to eat.
This tastes much better than any ice cream that you buy in the store today. Maybe it's because you work for it!

Fish were caught in a stream or Silver Lake or Lake Michigan. If more were caught than one's family could eat fresh some were shared with neighbors. Rabbits and squirrels were

hunted for the table. Beef was preserved in brine or canned and pork was canned in jars too.

There were many routine chores that must be done. For the women there was the usual house work, and bread to bake almost daily. Butter to be churned unless you could buy a pound or two from a neighbor who had more than she needed

Shoes needed to be tapped periodically. The soles were not sewn on as they are now but nailed on and nails worked loose and needed to be tapped back in place. The shoe was placed on an iron form shaped like the sole of a foot and it stood on a stand about two feet high, which was placed on a bench or table.

The cows and the horses needed to be fed and the cows milked twice a day. Gardens must be planted, weeded and harvested.

Social life centered around the church and neighbors. People called on neighbors when they had time and were always invited to "take dinner" with them. Sometimes they stayed the night. They often sang together. It was especially nice if there was a piano or melodeon in the parlor. On a rare occasion someone might have a graphaphone and everyone would sit and listen to the music, and maybe sing along. Graphaphone records could be recut when they became too worn.

Christmas was a time for church and family. Gifts were usually something simple like a pair of hand knit sox or mittens, or a lace collar that was crocheted or tatted. A new blouse that was sewn by hand. There was always a Christmas program at the school and the children spoke "pieces" about Christmas. There would be little bags of candy and fruit prepared by the teacher and were handed out to the children. There would be a Christmas Eve service at the church and caroling. There would always be lots of baking and candy making for the holidays.

A new canopy top buggy was an exciting event in a family. One could be bought for $65. In Oceana County about 1905

the horses pulling a buggy were beginning to see their first automobile on the road. Both the horse and driver were very apprehensive about meeting a horseless carriage the first few times. George Reid had the first one in Mears and he took family members and friends for rides. He could make it home from Hart in 20 minutes using the back roads. That was fast!

Those early automobiles were started by using a crank and it was always necessary to carry a couple extra tires because they frequently went flat.

In those early years someone in a rural neighborhood might have a telephone. It was a wooden box and would hang on the wall. It needed to be cranked to get the operators attention. You would then tell her who you wanted to speak to or if they were on the same party line, you could crank their ring yourself, in long and short rings. If the town was small enough, the operator probably knew where to find them if they didn't happen to be home at the time you called. The family with the phone expected his neighbors to use it when an emergency arose. Mears was a small town.

Arbutus, the first flowers in the spring, were picked and mailed to distant family and friends to share the sweet smell of spring. In the spring family graves were routinely cared for and kept looking nice to show respect for their loved ones. Often a family group would do this together. Sometimes they would take a picnic lunch and make a day of cleaning up the family graves and planting flowers. They could take time to remember and talk of their loved ones gone on ahead.

It was noted in the Hart Journal dated January 18, 1904, that **Mr. Horace Woodhouse died**. After moving to Mears he had lived the remainder of his life there. Horace was laid out in the parlor of his home, as was the custom, and the funeral was held in his home at 2 p.m on a Wednesday afternoon.

His obituary stated "beside Anna Maria, his wife, he left children W.H. Woodhouse (Worthy) of Benona Township, Howard I. of Golden Township, Ensign E. of Mears, and Mrs. F. S. Stout (Emma) of Golden Township, and a brother, James of Waupun, Wisconsin, also ten grandchildren. His obituary goes

on to say "He was a public spirited citizen and staunch Republican in politics. He leaves many friends and neighbors who will greatly miss him". Horace was buried in the Mears Cemetery, the first to be buried in the Woodhouse plot.

Anna Maria died May 21, 1918 in Mears. She is buried in the Mears Cemetery along side Horace in the Woodhouse family plot. Ensign E. Woodhouse and Howard and his wife Nellie Barton Woodhouse are buried in the family plot also.

JAMES WOODHOUSE WENT TO WISCONSIN

James family may have stopped in Gridley at the same time Horace did. However, James bought "60 acres more or less", in Waupun, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin January 20, 1868. Waupun is a small community which is located on the southern most tip of a large lake named Lake Winnebago. Fond du Lac was described in 1862 as "good farm county and woodland with streams and a view of the lake. Both branches of the Fond du Lac river flow through the county and there were "several fine sand-pits, good brick-clay beds, two hay marshes, two good stone quarries and one small peat-bed" all features that would attract families who were thinking of relocating.

James and Mary's third son, **Milton Herbert Woodhouse5** was born October 26, 1866. He died in Wisconsin at two years and five months. He is buried in Wedges Prairie Cemetery in Waupun, Fond du Lac County. There is another name in that family plot. It is Roy F. "son" with no dates on the stone. Perhaps this baby boy died at birth. After giving birth to four sons, James and Mary only had one living child, **Frank Leonard Woodhouse5.**

Mary L. Skinner Woodhouse died in Brandon, Wisconsin on July 30, 1870 at 34 years of age. She is buried in Wedges Prairie Cemetery with two of her baby sons

JAMES MARRIED JULIA THOMPSON

Five years after Mary L's death James married again. He married Miss **Julia A. Thompson** of Waupum on February 25, 1875. She was the daughter of William and Olive Thompson. James was 47 and Julia, was 26 years of age. They were married in the Free Baptist Church of Waupun by Elder H.J. Brown. Witnesses to their marriage were William Thompson and Hattie Thompson. Frank Leonard, then 15 years of age, was most likely the only member of Jame's family to attend. Julia's parents and her sister Ada M.T. Sawyer and her niece Olive Van Keuren and B.E. Van Keuren of Oskosh.

JAMES AND JULIA WOODHOUSE

James son Frank Leonard Woodhouse lived to adulthood. His marriage is listed in Fond du Lac, September 22, 1892.

James wrote to Horace after his marriage to Julia. A letter on a post card size piece of paper is written on both sides to his brother Horace. There are many names and dates on it, followed by---"this is just as it stands in the old record". It tells us how close these two brothers remained through out their lives. (it is not known who Levi and Ruben Farnsworth are)

James wrote: "Levi has not got back yet unless he came last night. He wrote that Ruben Farnsworth was very sick I have been drawing stone along back for a cellar wall. If I live and have my health I want to put up an upright to my house one of these days. Horace come out and see us when you can. Write soon."

Then on the other side of the small piece of paper--- "You have to send down to Julia and have her send up the dates on the tombstones. One more Sabbath has rolled around and found us all well and harty. Just a nice spring morning & very little snow splendid weather. Frank and I heard the ------roosters crowing. My wife's name is Julia Thompson. We will send you our photograph in our next letter. So the sooner you write the sooner you will get this. Good by"

James died March 24, 1915 in Waupan, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin and was buried three days later in Wedges Prairie Cemetery in Waupan. His second wife Julia died about 1925.

footnote: 1)Some of the notes about Mears in the early 1900's came from the journals of J. Arthur Hunter, Little Point Sable Lighthouse Keeper 1900-1915, copied in two volumes by Vinetta Ling. Titles; "What These Walls Could Tell" and "Keeper of the Light".
2) Some of the information about the Ensign line came from the book "The Descendents of James Ensign the Puritan, 1934-1939"

CHAPTER SIX

WORTHY & MARGARET WOODHOUSE

MARRIED AUGUST 13, 1883
MEARS, OCEANA, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

WILLIAM H. - 1885
JAMES A. - 1890
MARTHA E. - 1893
FRANK E. - 1898
JOSEPHINE J. - 1900

WORTHY H. WOODHOUSE 1860-1932
MAGGIE F. SMITH LYTTLE 1862-1939

Worthy Horace Woodhouse5, (Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born July 17, 1860 in Hamburg, Erie County, New York. He was five years old in 1865 when his parents left Hamburg and made their way to Illinois. From there they went to Hillsdale, Michigan where his grandparents were living. His grandparents were the Reverend Ashley Woolworth Ensign and Anna Maria Washburn Ensign. One of the churches where Rev. Ensign preached is the Cooks Prairie Freewill Baptist Church from 1870-1872.

Worthy's parents then moved to Oceana County, Michigan around 1878. They traveled northwest from Hillsdale in a horse drawn wagon until they reached Mears in Oceana County. Worthy was 17 years old then. His brother Howard was 15. Their little sister, Emma was born in Hillsdale and she was about two when they relocated in Mears.

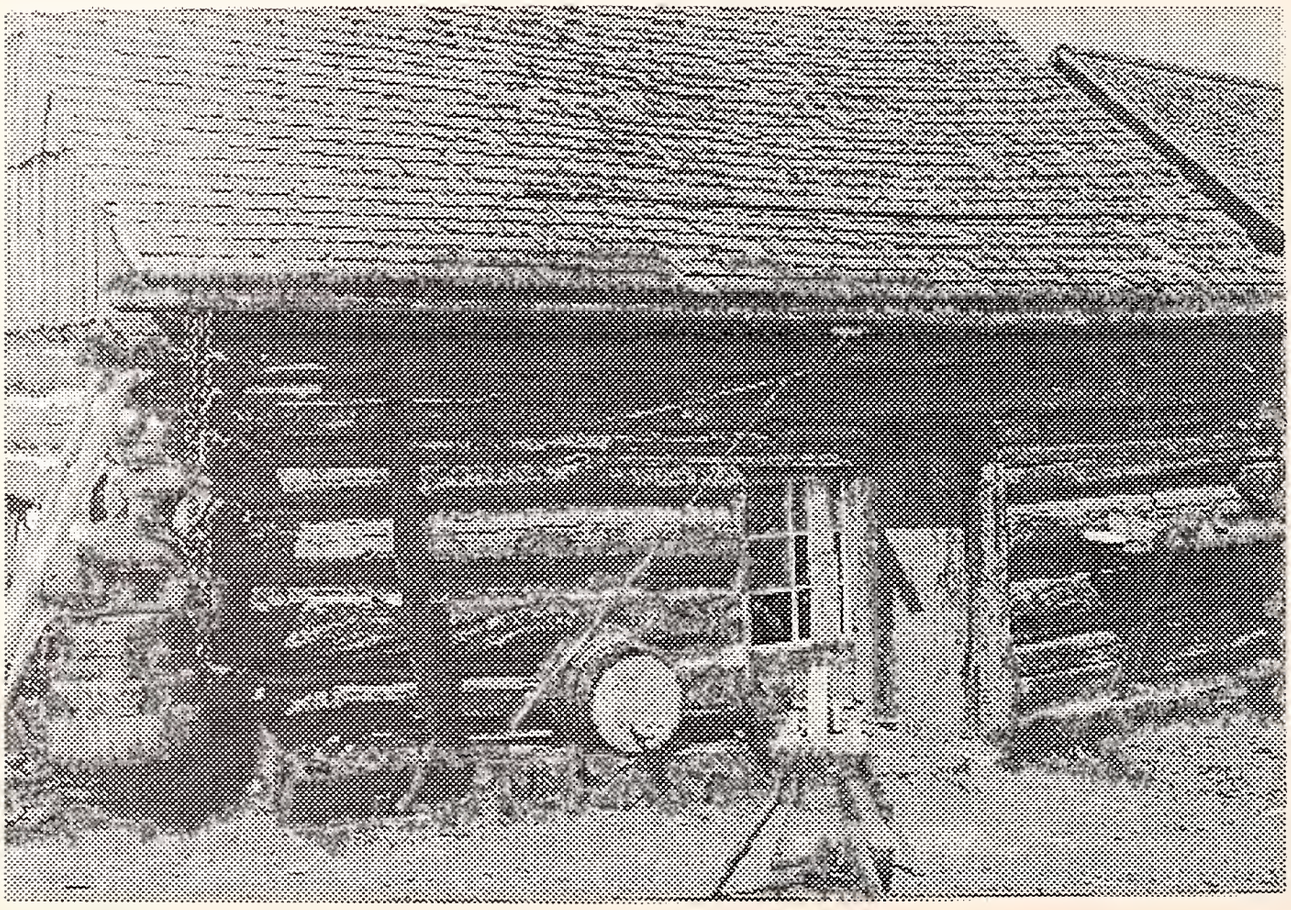
Worthy's father, Horace, was not in good health after the Civil War and Worthy and Howard would have had to do much of the driving and care of the team as they made there way north.

After the family was settled in Mears Worthy worked for some years in the lumber mills at Little Point Sable and earned enough to buy a farm near the lumber mills in Benona Township.

August 13, 1883 Worthy married **Margaret F. Smith Lyttle**. Maggie as she was called, was working at the boarding house at the lumber mills where the lumberjacks lived. This is where she and Worthy met. Maggie was born in Cornack, Glarryford, Antrim County, Northern Ireland. She spent her girlhood there and attended school in Cornark until she came to the United States in 1879.

Folks who have grown up in Oceana and surrounding counties, will remember Swift Lathers who was the publisher of the MEARS NEWZ advertised to be "The Smallest Newspaper in the World". He mentioned WOODHOUSE family members often. In the February 11,1966 edition he stated: "Frank Woodhouse says that when his father and mother, Worthy and Maggie, set up housekeeping in Mears, upstairs over a store and near the Good

Templer Hall, that their housekeeping outfit cost them eight dollars. Those were the good old days when it didn't cost so much to get married and stay married. If they got a red-and-white checkered tablecloth that was a little faded on one side they could turn it upside down. The cloth I mean, not the table. In after years when Worthy Woodhouse lived at the farm I think, he led the singing at the tabernacle or at the tent which was before that. There was an organ at Old Orchard Lodge, which Worthy would bring down for the Sunday service by taking the seats out of his double buggy. And after the meeting he would take the organ back to the Lodge. Then he could put the seats back in his buggy."



First Home of Worthy and Maggie Woodhouse

Worthy was a very civic minded man. He was director of the Peach Ridge School for more than 20 years.

Teachers were paid $35 per month for teaching in a one room school with up to eight grades. Some years there would only be one or two students in a grade and another their might be six or seven in a grade, or none. The teacher would be expected to keep the fire going in the pot bellied stove in the winter time.

Usually there was an older boy who would take that responsibility for her. There was janitor work too. She had chalk and a black board where she would write the daily lessons. Cleaning the black board at the end of the day and pounding the chalk dust out of the felt erasers were jobs the children could do. The teacher would usually live with a family who lived near the school. Living near the school usually meant living within a mile or two. She or he would be expected to walk to and from the school each day.

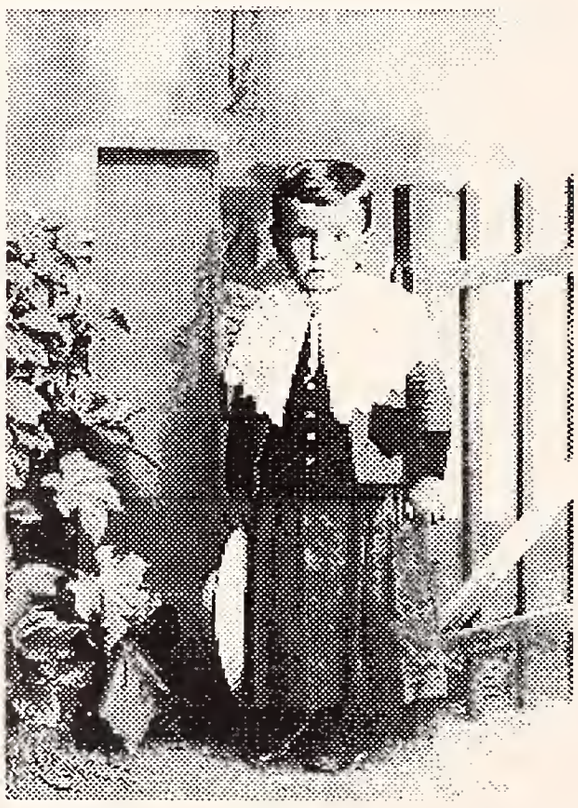
During WW1 Worthy was a member of the Oceana County Red Cross Committee and of the Liberty Loans committee. He was also a Justice of the peace. He was a member of the Gleaners, a social organization of farm folks.

Maggie too was civic minded. She was, for a long time, an active member of an organization called the Maccabees. She served as secretary-treasurer of the Light House Arbor Gleaners for 30 years and she was the correspondent for the Herald newspaper, writing about the happenings in the Peach Ridge area.

Worthy Woodhouse in a Potato Field on his "Lone Pine Farm"

Worthy grew potatoes on his farm, among other crops. Potatoes were a good cash crop for farmers in that area. In October each year school children were let out on vacation for two weeks to help harvest the potato crop. Potatoes brought 25 cents per bushel adding a substancial amount to the family income.

Neighbors helped each other in those days. In 1914 when a road was needed by the school house, five or six neighbors brought there teams and they built the road themselves. When a neighbors home burned, dozen of canned fruits and vegetables were shared. Someone would stop by with a bushel of potatoes or apples. The women of the neighborhood would get together and tie quilts for them. Each neighbor shared what they could spare and knew that if they had trouble their neighbors would be there for them too.



William H. Woodhouse,

Maggie and Worthy's first child **WILLIAM H. WOODHOUSE6** was born August 21, 1885. Worthy and Willie were both musically talented and played horns in the Benona Brass Band.

THE BENONA BRASS BAND at STONY CREEK circa 1897

L.-R: George McNett; K. Estepp; Ed. Burmeister; Will McCloud; Frank Burmeister; Robert Burmeister; WILL WOODHOUSE; Charles Lyttle; Ira Gifford; WORTHY WOODHOUSE; Thomas Reid. Worthy is holding a cornet or trumpet and his son Will is holding a horn.

JAMES A. WOODHOUSE6, the second child of Worthy and Maggie, was born January 11, 1890. James was in the Coast Artillery during W.W.I, In 1917 he married Mary Blanche Mitchell in Hoopeston, Illinois. Mary was born in David City, Nebraska December 21, 1889.

James became a salesman for Gerber Canning Company in Fremont, Michigan. When Gerber began making baby food he quit because he thought there was no future in it. Who would

ever have guessed that Gerber Products Company would have developed the way it did. James and Mary had one son, **James M. Woodhouse7** born January 17 1924 in Benton Harbor, Michigan. James married Phyllis Conley in Streator, Illinois August 31, 1946. James and Mary had four children. **David Conley Woodhouse; Jayne Carolyn Woodhouse; James Michael Woodhouse; and Michael Woodhouse.** All are **8th generation Woodhouses.**

James A. Woodhouse died in Peoria, Illinois July 14, 1966. Mary Blanche died February 10, 1987 in Peoria, Illinois. Both James A. and Mary Blanche are buried in Springdale Cemetery, in Peoria, Illinois. Their daughter-in-law Phyllis died December 31, 1999 and is buried in Springdale Cemetery also.

MARTHA E. WOODHOUSE6, Worthy and Maggies third child, was born December 5, 1893 in Benona. She grew up learning about the art of home making from Maggie and on May 29, 1917 she married Frederick A. Kingshott. Fred was the son of Alfred Kingshott and Armintha Benedict. Martha was a member of the Methodist Church and a bookkeeper.

Martha and Fred had one son whom they named **Lyle Royce Kingshott7.** Martha and Fred lived in Muskegon where he died November 15, 1970. Martha died in Muskegon, Michigan October 28, 1977.

Lyle Kingshott married Betty Clark August 30, 1947. They have six children: **Linda Kingshott8** born September 13, 1948. Linda married Gerald Crisley December 20, 1969. **Judy Kingshott8** born October 25, 1949. Judy married Daniel Jaynes May 27, 1952. Lyle and Betty's first son **Lee Donald Kingshott8** born May 4 1952 died at birth. **Bruce Leonard Kingshott8** was born June 22, 1953. Bruce married Marion Fischer August 30, 1974 in Germany. Bruce and Marion have one daughter, Stacy Kingshott. Bruce is a member of the U. S. Air Force reserve. He and Marion make their home in Oklahoma. After the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, Bruce was sent to San Antonio, Texas to work on planes. San Antonio is where their daughter Stacy lives. Betty and Lyle's son **Jeffrey D. Kingshott8** was born December 24, 1959 and daughter **Shelly Dawn Kingshott8** was born October 22, 1962.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF SUMMER VISITS

Martha's son, Lyle Kingshott wrote this wonderful account about his summer visits with his grandparents, Worthy and Maggie Woodhouse on the farm in Benona. Here is what he wrote:

"I spent a couple of weeks every summer with Worthy and Maggie when I was a little fellow and continued staying with Maggie after Worthy died. They lived on a farm a mile or two from Silver Lake and I remember that a windmill pumped water to a stone container in the kitchen. The container held about 15 or 20 gallons of the coldest water you could imagine. Maggie expected me to perform my morning ablutions in this icy water just as she did. An iron wood burning stove held sway there and served as heater and cook stove. The stove had a shelf mounted high on its back for storage and for keeping food warm and there was a water tank mounted on the side which held a couple of gallons and supplied warm water in season. Drinking water was dipped from the 20 gallon tank by a common long handled tin dipper.

The living room had a large dining table and the room was lighted in the evening by a gas mantle light supplemented by kerosene lamps. There were three bedrooms and a "parlor" which boasted an organ which operated by a foot powered bellows system. One of the beds had a "feather tick" mattress so thick and soft that it was like a cloud. Speaking of clouds, in the summer, there were always dozens of house flies on the screen door to the kitchen and fly swatters were always handy. Fly tapes were hung in strategic places and were always loaded with victims.

Outside poultry had the run of the farm yard. At one corner of the house was an underground cistern which collected rainwater from the roof. This water was regarded as 'soft' and valued for shampooing by the ladies. The toilet facilities consisted of a 2 holer surrounded by lilac bushes about 50 feet from the house. Toilet tissue was not in reliable supply and was supplemented by out-dated catalog pages.

There was a cellar built into the side of a hill about 50 yards from the house and it was always cool there in the hottest weather. Maggie stored temperature sensitive things there and I kept her company there while she churned butter many times.

About 100 yards from the house were the barn, corn crib and tool house. The barn was right out of Tom Sawyer. It was built into a hill and the cows were dormitoried there. The ground level was filled with hay and countless sparrows. A long, sturdy rope hung from a rafter and my cousin Jim Woodhouse and I flew thru the air in the best tradition of the trapeze artist to land in the soft hay. We could stand on top of the hay and look thru the cracks in the boards and see forever.

Worthy and Maggies Grandchildren played in the barn

FRANK EDWIN WOODHOUSE6 was Worthy and Maggies third child. Frank was born on July 19, 1898 in Golden Township. Frank married **Ann Esther Near** born December 26, 1897 in Shelby, Oceana County and was the daughter of the Reverend A.H. Near and his wife Elizabeth.

Frank and Ann were married in Shelby and continued to live there. Frank was a salesman. Ann was an obstetrics nurse at the Shelby Hospital and was said to have been loved by all her

patients. Frank and Ann were members of the Reformed Mennonite Church. They had three children.

The first was **William Woodhouse7**, born September 7, 1929. "Bill" married Elizabeth Ann Blackburn October 20,1861. Bill and Elizabeth had two children; **Molly Woodhouse8**, born August 18, 1964 who married Ben Allen Welch in 1982. At the time of this writing Molly works as an Air Traffic Control Specialist. **Charles Woodhouse8** lives in Ferndale, Michigan and is in sales.

Thomas E. Woodhouse7 is Frank and Ann's second son. Tom was born September 4, 1930 in Hart, Michigan. He married Virginia E. Miller on March 17, 1956. Virginia was born in Muskegon, Michigan on April 11, 1935.

Tom and "Ginny" have two children. **Jeffry T. Woodhouse8** was born July 23 1957 in Peoria, Illinois. Jeffry is married to Virginia C. Rooney and they have children **Alex J. Woodhouse9** and **Eric K. Woodhouse9**.

Tom and Ginny's daughter **Margie A. Woodhouse8** was born May 12, 1960 in Peoria, Illinois. Margie is married to Roger Finley and they have children **Sarah Jean9 and Thomas Jack9.**

Tom was in the United States Navy and served during the Korean and Cold Wars for four years and four months. He served two years on the destroyer USS Preston DD795 with home port Newport Rhode Island and two years on the submarine USS Tang SS563 with home port being Pearl Harbor.Before retirement, Tom was a Food Broker representing 51 food companies, Offices were in Peoria and Champaign, Illinois and Davenport, Iowa.

Tom plays the bag pipes and plays with a group of pipers in Peoria, Illinois where he and his wife Virginia live.

In Mears, Oceana County, Michigan on Sunday afternoon September 15, 1996, the Oceana County Historical and Genealogical Society sponsored a Cemetery Walk in which people represented, and told about the person buried in the grave they stood by. Tom Woodhouse dressed in a Civil War uniform and told about the life of our Horace Woodhouse for three hours.

He represented Horace well and everyone enjoyed hearing about Horace life.

At the end of the afternoon,when most of the visitors had left, Tom played Amazing Grace on the bag pipes there at Horace and Anna's graves. Those of us who had worked in various other jobs for the cemetery walk found it a very moving and appropriate end to the day.

TOM WOODHOUSE PLAYS HORACE AT MEARS CEMETERY

Horace Woodhouse's great grandson, Thomas Woodhouse of Peoria, Illinois portrays him as part of the Mears Cemetery Walk in September 15, 1996.

Margaret Elizabeth Woodhouse7 is Frank and Ann's daughter. She was born February 3, 1935 in Shelby, Michigan. Margaret married John Edward Huston August 27, 1955 in Shelby, Michigan. John was born March 25, 1935 the son of John V. Huston and Anna Woehler. Johns profession is Farming and Margaret was a Lab Technician in the Lakeshore Hospital in Shelby. Margaret and John have three children all born in Shelby.

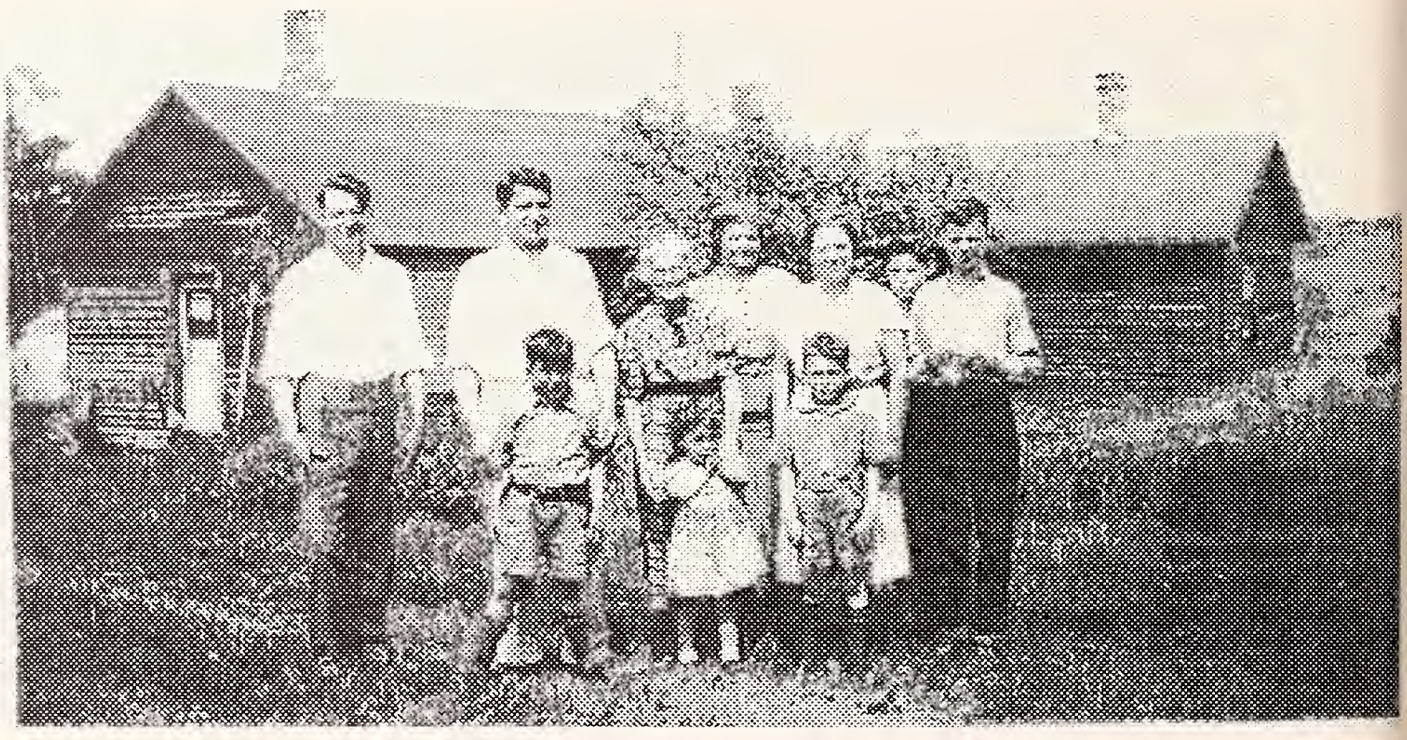
They are **Michael John Houston8** who married Pamela Kay Salis in Vassar, Tuscola, Michigan on December 6, 1987. Michael Huston is a Landscaper. Michael and Pamela have two children, **James FranklinHuston9, and Nicole Ann Huston9.**

Mark William Huston8 married Barbara Ann Prill on June 13, 1987 in Whitehall, Michigan, and **Lisa Ann Huston8** born April 6, 1965 and who married Scott David Kidder on August 22,1992.

JOSEPHINE WOODHOUSE6, (Worthy5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) the youngest child of Worthy and Maggie was born August 7, 1900 in Oceana County, Michigan. She was always called "Josie". Josie married Cornelias H. Beukema in January 16, 1924 in the Bethany Christian Reformed Church in Muskegon, Michigan. Cornelias was the son of Charles J. Beukema.

Josie was a nurse and she took her training at Hackley Hospital in Muskegon. She stayed with the Howard Woodhouse family while she was going to nursing school because Howard and Nellie lived on John Street, only a half block from Hackley Hospital. Josie died December 24, 1944 at St. Lukes Hospital in Chicago, Illinois where she had been working.

WORTHY AND MAGGIE WOODHOUSE AT HOME



MAGGIE WOODHOUSE AND FAMILY

Back row: Frank, Jim, Maggie, Martha, Joe, Lyle & Jim
In front is Bill, Margaret and Tom

CHAPTER SEVEN

ENSIGN & PAULINE WOODHOUSE

MARRIED JULY 1915
MEDINA, NEW YORK

EMMA & THOMPSON STOUT

MARRIED OCTOBER 1902
MEARS, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

TRAVIS
ENOLA
MARY JANE
AUDREY

ENSIGN E. WOODHOUSE 1880 - 1955
PAULINE O'KUSSICK 1888-1944

ENSIGN E. WOODHOUSE

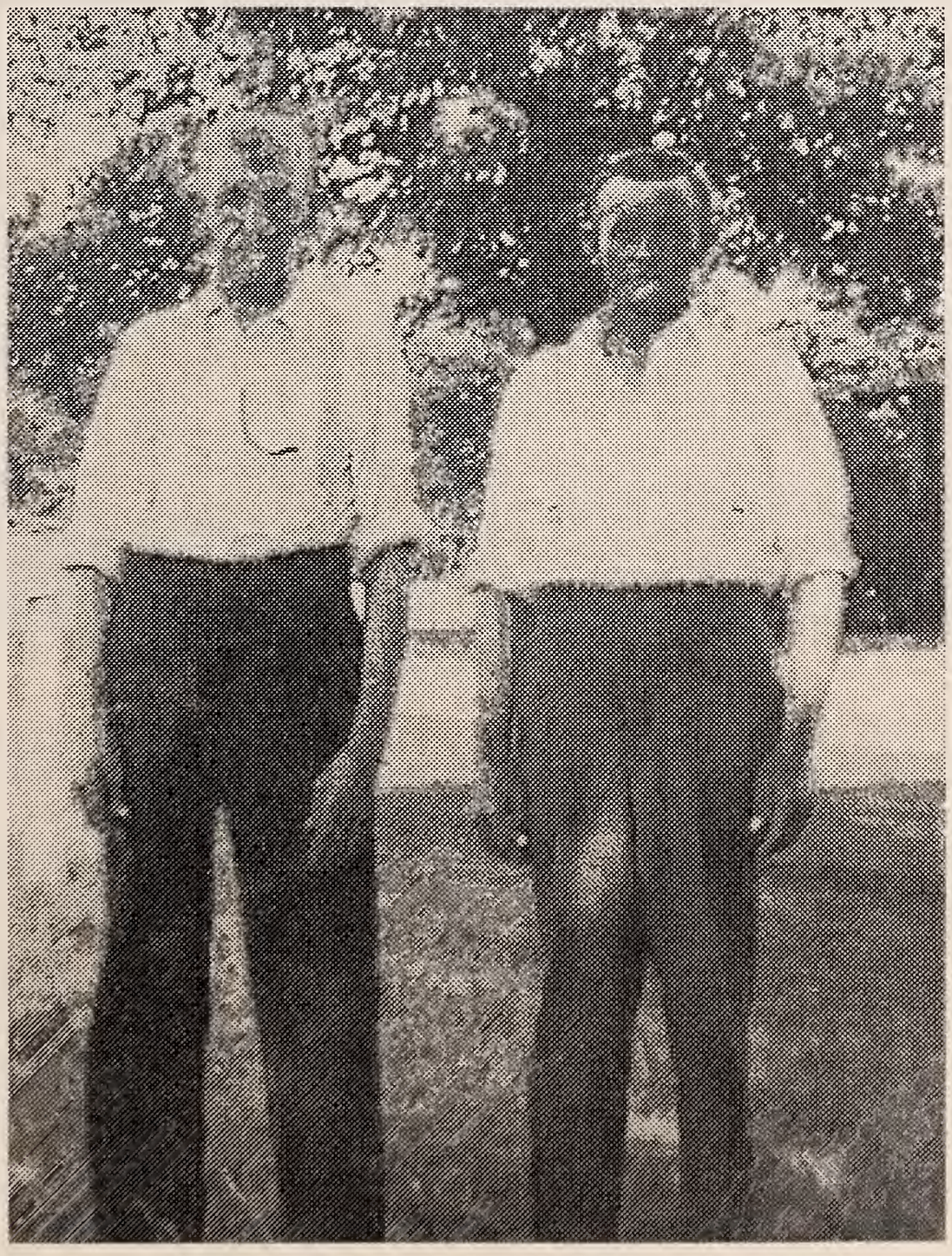
Ensign Woodhouse5 (Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born November 6, 1880 in Mears, Michigan the fourth child and third son of Horace and Anna Maria Woodhouse. He is the only child to be born in Oceana County.

As a young man Ensign moved to Buffalo, New York and worked as a trolley conductor. It was there that he met Miss Pauline O'Kussick of Medina, New York. Ensign and Pauline were married in July 1915 in Medina, Orleans County, New York and lived there for the balance of their lives.

Ensign played the trombone and it is said that while he was living in Buffalo Ensign played with a big name band. His nephew, Philip Woodhouse said he thought it might have been John Philip Sousa's band. He was a member of the Orleans Lodge of the Odd Fellows.

ENSIGN & PAULINE WOODHOUSE

Pauline died in 1944 in Medina, N.Y. and was buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Medina. Pauline died at age 29 years and Ensign never married again. He visited Muskegon often and while he and Pauline had no children of their own, all his nieces and nephews adored him.



HOWARD AND ENSIGN WOODHOUSE

FAMILY PICNIC CIRCA 1921

BACK ROW: PAULINE, ENSIGN, CALVIN AND HELEN CRAMPTON
CENTER: NELLIE AND BELLE (GERALDS WIFE)
FRONT: HOWARD, RAYMOND AND HAROLD (GERALDS CHILDREN)
PHOTO BY GERALD WOODHOUSE

Ensign died September 11, 1955 in Medina Memorial Hospital following a long illness. He is buried in the Mears Cemetery, in Oceana County, Michigan with his parents, Horace and Anna Maria and his brother Howard and Nellie Woodhouse.

MINERVA EMILY WOODHOUSE 1876-1922
THOMPSON S. STOUT (DATES UNKNOWN)

Minerva Emily Woodhouse5 (Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born Dec. 22, 1876 to Horace and Anna Maria while living in Allen, Hillsdale County, Michigan where her grandparents, the Reverend Ashley Woolworth Ensign and Minerva Ensign were living.

Emma came to Mears with her parents, Horace and Maria, and her brothers Worthy and Howard in a horse drawn wagon when she was four years old. This was about 1880 and before her brother Ensign was born.

In 1891 at age 15 years, Emma as she was always called, was baptized in the Methodist Church in Mears.

In October 1902 Emma married Thompson S. Stout of Mears and they had six children, three boys and three girls. Only four of the childrens names are known at the time of this writing. They are **Travis Stout6** who married Franzeska Jost and **Enola Stout6, Mary Jane Stout6,** and **Audrey Stout6.**

Minerva Emily Stout died June 20, 1922 at her home in Mears of cancer. She was age 45 years, 5 months and 28 days. The funeral was held at home with Rev. R. B. Citley officiating. She is buried in the Mears Cemetery, in Mears, Oceana County, Michigan.

CHAPTER EIGHT

HOWARD & NELLIE WOODHOUSE

MARRIED NOVEMBER 10 1894
MEARS, OCEANA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

GERALD BARTON - 1895 (Chapter 9)
HELEN MAE - 1898 (Chapter 10)
MILDRED EDITH - 1901 (Chapter 11)
PHILIP ELTON - 1903 (Chapter 12)

HOWARD INTHUS WOODHOUSE 1863-1948
NELLIE EVELYN BARTON 1873-1955

Howard Woodhouse5 (Horace4; Leonard3; Henry2; William1) was born in Hamburg, Erie County, New York on July 7, 1863 to Horace and Anna Maria (Ensign) Woodhouse. His family left Hamburg right after the Civil War along with at least two other families. We know that his Uncle James Woodhouse and Uncle Emory Ensign and their families left at the same time.

Howard and his family lived in Gridley, Illinois for awhile but about 1870 or so, because Howard's father's health was poor, they went to Michigan where his grandparents, the Reverend Ashley W. Ensign and Minerva Washburn Ensign were living. They lived there for a few years and when Howard was 17 years old and his brother Worthy was about 19 years they moved to Mears, Michigan.

HOWARD WOODHOUSE

THE BARTON FAMILY COMES TO MEARS

Meanwhile, ten years after Howard was born, **Nellie Evelyn Barton**[8] was born in Parksville, Sullivan County, New York to Jesse Daniel and Mary Lucy Brown Barton. Nellie was the sixth of eleven children.

HOWARD AND NELLIE WOODHOUSE

NELLIE EVELYN BARTONNellie Evelyn Barton8, daughter of Jesse Daniel Barton7 (William6, Jeremiah5, Isaac4; Roger3, Roger2, Roger1) and his family left Parksville, N.Y. in 1883, when Nellie was about 10 years old, and moved to Vineland, Cumberland County, New Jersey. Nellie's sister

Jessie "Daisy" was born in Vineland. Jesse D. Barton was apparently a very good carpenter because after living in Vineland for only about a year and half, he was offered a job as a ship fitter for ships on the Great Lakes by Charles Mears an entrepreneur in Oceana County, Michigan. So in 1884 Jesse brought his wife and their family of ten children, by train to Mears. One more daughter, Sylvia Grace was born December 16, 1888 in Mears.

After the ship building business slowed down, Jesse D. Barton eventually worked for the Pentwater Furniture Factory where he apprenticed several of his sons to learn the furniture building business. The Pentwater Furniture Factory burned and Jesse opened his own furniture factory in Mears. His son Rob Barton went on to start the Barton Furniture Factory in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Barton Furniture Factory still {2002} exists and still bears the Barton name.

Mears was and still is a small community and Howard and Nellie would have had no trouble finding each other. They may have met in church, or some social event. Howard was working as a farmer for a Mr. Gephart and later for the George Hawley farms on the old highway 21 in Golden Township. My father, Phil Woodhouse told me that his dad was paid about one dollar per day for his labor on the farm.

HOWARD AND NELLIE MARRIED

Howard and Nellie were married on her 21st birthday November 10, 1894 in Mears by John L. Kerr a Baptist minister. Nellie's brother Ralph Barton and Emma Woodhouse, Howard's sister, were the witnesses for the marriage. Howard was 31 years old.

Howard and Nellie's first child was born August 10, 1895. They named him **Gerald Barton Woodhouse.** May 13, 1898 Howard and Nellie's second child was born. She was **Helen Mae Woodhouse.** {I have wondered if perhaps she was named for Howard's infant aunt Helen M. Woodhouse who died in Hamburg, N.Y. at age 6 months and 14 days.} March 28, 1901 **Mildred Edith Woodhouse** was born in Muskegon. On August 27, 1903 their youngest son, **Philip Elton Woodhouse**, my Dad, was born on a farm in Mears, so it appears they went back to Golden Township to live for a short while.

L to R: PHILIP, MILDRED, HELEN, and GERALD

My father, Philip, told me this story. After Nellie and Howard were married they lived in Hart for awhile and then Howard got a job in Muskegon. He went to Muskegon and picked out a house on Beiler Street, near his job at the Brunswick Company. He moved all their belongings into the house and Grandma Nellie found bed bugs in it. She refused to unpack and so they found a cleaner house on Park Avenue. {I remember Grandma was a meticulous housekeeper.} They later moved into the house on John Street. That house was just a few doors from Hackley Hospital. Josie Woodhouse, Howard's niece, lived with them while taking nurses training at Hackley Hospital.

THE HOUSE ON JOHN STREET, MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

The children spent most of their growing up years in the house on John Street. Charles Larnard lived next door. Charles, later became a prominent lawyer in Muskegon and the family lawyer. Dad remembered Charlie would sit on his front porch and study law books. When Charlie retired his son Chad took over the business and continued to be the families legal advisor.

About 1930, Howard and Nellie bought the house at 1122 Ruddiman Drive, North Muskegon, Michigan where they lived the rest of Howard's lifetime. The house was on the corner of Nelson and facing Ruddiman Drive. Gerald and his family lived on Mills about 13 blocks away and Philip and his family lived just four blocks in the other direction. Howard later worked for the Shaw Walker Company. His son Philip told me that his Dad never owned a car and he walked everywhere. He walked to and from work when they lived in North Muskegon and my dad Philip, often drove over to meet him and bring him home because he knew he must be tired.

HOWARD AND NELLIE GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
PHILIP, NELLIE, MILDRED, HELEN, HOWARD, GERALD

HOWARD AND NELLIE MARRIED FIFTY YEARS

On November 10, 1944 Howard and Nellie had been married 50 years. A big open house celebration was held the next summer at their home in North Muskegon. There were many friends and family members there to help them celebrate.

HOWARD'S 84th YEAR CELEBRATED

Another celebration was held July 7, 1947 when Howard's family honored him with a family reunion on his 84th birthday at the home of his son Gerald in North Muskegon. The Muskegon Chronicle, had this to say about the occasion.

"Mr. Woodhouse, 84, Honored at Family Birthday Dinner."

"Howard Woodhouse, 2122 Ruddiman drive, North Muskegon was honored on his 84th birthday anniversary, at a family reunion on the lawn at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Woodhouse, 1013 Mills avenue, North Muskegon."

"Dinner was served to Ensign Woodhouse of Medina, N.Y.; Mrs. Mildred Wolverton of Greenville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coburn, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodhouse and family, Shelby; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolverton and family of Sidney; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wolverton and family, Greenville; Mr. and Mrs. Jack E. Smith and family, Fremont; Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Rollenhagen, Ravenna; Mr. and Mrs. John Stefula; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kingshott of Muskegon; Mr. and Mrs. Phil Woodhouse and family; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Woodhouse and family, the honored guest and his wife, and the hosts, all of North Muskegon."

March 1, 1948 Howard Inthus Woodhouse died in his home in North Muskegon at age 84 years. Howard and Nellie had been married 53 years. He died of cancer of the esophagus.

Howard's youngest son, my father, told me many stories about his growing up days. He remembered his father as a dapper man. He also remembered his dad taking him by the hand and walking to a field where an airplane was scheduled to land. The plane landed all right but it couldn't stop and plowed into a building. No one was hurt. It was the first airplane either of them had ever seen.

When Philip was a boy he and Howard also walked to the beach at Lake Michigan to watch a demonstration of a ship wreck rescue with a ship to shore cable and a breeches buoy seat to carry passengers safely off the ship to the beach.

Howard was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. A popular fraternal organization of the early 1900's. My Dad was a member of the Modern Woodmen too. Dad explained that this was a lodge and there was a branch in Muskegon, where Grandpa and Dad both went to workout and socialize. Both had some kind of insurance through the organization.

I (Arlene) have fond memories of growing up only a couple blocks from the home of Howard and Nellie who were my Grandma and Grandpa Woodhouse. Well, maybe the earliest one isn't so fondly remembered because as a preschooler I couldn't resist the temptation to walk down the path through the woods and across the field of Oxeye Daisies to visit with my Grandma. I remember the "switchings" and "spankings" I got because I must have caused my mother great concern when I went to Grandma's house without permission. I kept forgetting that lesson or maybe Grandma's big molasses cookies were worth the punishment. Grandma Woodhouse always had fresh baked cookies on hand.

Another of my earliest memories is when I was about six years old. Grandpa Woodhouse walked down the path through the woods that led to our house and I was playing in the yard with a ball. I had played catch with my dad and made a quick decision to challenge Grandpa by throwing the ball toward him and yelling "catch Grandpa". Well he didn't, and it hit him on the forehead. He was not pleased about that and told me not to throw balls at people. So much for playing ball with Grandpa. I of course, said I was sorry.

It was about that time that Dad decided to move our little house that he and Grandpa had built on the back of our lot on 613 Oscar Avenue, in North Muskegon. Grandpa came to help every day that Dad worked on the house. I remember distinctly that they somehow got some round logs like telephone poles under the small house and rolled it to the front of the lot where it now stands. I don't remember for sure but I think a big truck pulled it and they replaced the logs from the back of the house to the front to keep it moving to the place where a basement had been dug. It was a slow process. I remember that Dad let me put my version of a time capsule, a bug in a jar, in one of the cement blocks that made the foundation.

Nellie and Howard were gardeners

Grandma and Grandpa Woodhouse had a big vegetable garden covering most of the back yard. A ripe tomato or a radish or a young carrot right from their garden were the best ever.

They also had beautiful flower beds at the sides of the house on Ruddiman Drive. People used to drive by just to see their flower

beds. There were spicy smelling "pinks" which were little carnations or Dianthus in the borders and lots of petunias. I can smell them just thinking about them. I ate my first spicy nasturtium from Grandmas' flower garden. There were Spirea bushes next to the house.

Grandma had a group of lady friends who played "Bunko" together and always dressed up for the occasion. I can remember walking by on my way home from school when it was Grandma's turn to entertain. The smell of fresh coffee and goodies as I approached Grandma's house meant I had to find an excuse to stop, of course. I was always greeted with lots of hugs and kisses from all the ladies, and **cookies!**

On any ordinary day grandma always wore a starched and ironed "house dress" with a gingham apron over it. Her house always smelled like freshly baked bread or cookies or something wonderful. When my own wedding day approached I asked grandma for her date bar recipe. I will share it with you here just as she gave it to me but I remember the dates or raisins in her bars were quite moist and I think maybe she may have soaked them in a little warm water for awhile to moisten them and you would want to drain them really well before mixing them into the bars.

Grandma Nellie Woodhouse's DATE BARS

1 CUP SUGAR
1 EGG BEATEN
1 LARGE TBS. SHORTENING
ONE CUP FLOUR
2 tsp BAKING POWDER
2 TBS. MILK
1 tsp VANILLA
1 CUP DATES OR RAISINS
1/2 CUP NUTMEATS

MIX and PRESS DOWN IN A SHALLOW PAN. BAKE ABOUT 40 MINUTES AT 3?? (I can't read the temperature on my copy any more but I would guess about 350 to 375.)

I wish I had asked her for her molasses cookie recipe too. They were always really big and each cookie had a raisin in the middle.

Walking home from school or on a trip to the grocery store on an

errand for my mother I could always get a hug and a cookie when I stopped. Grandma was very special and everyone always called her a lady. She always dressed nicely and her home was always clean and neat.

The Buwalda family, Gerrit and Fanny, lived across the street from Grandma and Grandpa Woodhouse and I became friends with the Buwalda children. Marian and I continued our friendship for many years. Mrs. Buwalda made root beer that tasted wonderful on a hot summer day. Marian's brother Charlie stepped on a rusty nail and died of "lock jaw". (tetanus shots were not available at that time).

BUWALDA'S MARKET

Going to Buwalda's store for my mother was quite an adventure. The store was about six blocks from our "little house in the woods". Buwaldas market had well worn uneven wooden floors, and shelves of canned goods clear to the molded metal ceiling, on the right hand side of the room, when you first walked in the door. The counter in front of the canned goods had a glass front and was full of all kinds of penny candy. Sometimes I had a penny to buy candy and it took me a long time to choose how I would spend it. Once in awhile Mr. Buwalda would offer to let me choose a piece of candy free. He was a nice man. ere was a meat counter across the back of the store with fresh meats only, no prepackaged meats. You asked for the particular cut you wanted and Mr. Buwalda would cut it from a larger piece and wrap it in butcher paper while you stood there and chatted with him. When sliced bread was newly available you could buy it sliced or not. Buwalda's Hardware department was through a door on the left side of the market but I didn't usually have much interest in that part of Buwalda's.

One hazard to walking "up to Buwalda's" or to school was that there was a smaller house next door to Grandma and Grandpa's house. They had a yappy nipping-at-the-heels little mop of a dog. I was terrified of of that little mutt and often crossed the street to avoid it.

There was a swing on the front porch of Grandma and Grandpa's house that would hold two or three kids at a time and my cousins and I would swing and talk and giggle as we swung back and forth.

When we stayed over at Grandma and Grandpa's houses they

would sometimes play "hide the thimble" with us. One of them would hide Grandma's thimble and tell us when we were "hot or cold" as we searched around the room.

Grandpa was a quiet man and never had much to say to we grandchildren. I remember that he always wore dark trousers with a matching vest and a white shirt. Even though he didn't say much he did allow us to sit on his lap and tweak his nose now and then. He enjoyed working in his "work shop" in the basement and when my daughter Merrilee, was a toddler he made a tiny chair for her that she could sit in or carry around the house and stand on to reach more things.

Grandpa lived to be 84 and ever day he walked the four or five blocks to the main corner of Center Street and Ruddiman Drive in North Muskegon and would stand in front of Buwalda's Store and chat with folks. He was a proud man. One day on a slippery winter day I was walking to Buwalda's store on an errand for my mother and saw grandpa walking ahead of me. I walked a little faster to catch up with him when I saw him slip and fall on the icy sidewalk. He was having trouble getting up and I called to him asking if he was hurt. He shook his cane at me and told me. "You get the Hell out of here". He was embarrassed to have anyone see him fall and struggle to get up.

On one side of Grandma and Grandpa's house, there were two bedrooms with a bathroom in between. Every Saturday morning no matter what time of year or what the weather, the windows in all three rooms were flung open "to air the house".

Grandma's hair was always long and stayed brown for many years. She lived to 83 and even then her hair was only a little grey. She sat by the hot air register in the winter time to brush it dry after washing it. When it was dry she "crimped" it with a curling iron that was heated on the gas burner of the kitchen range. She wore her hair in a bun, low on the back of her head. It was held in place with large celluloid hair pins. On her dresser in the front bedroom was a pretty comb, brush and mirror set and two matching covered dishes. One dish contained hair pins and the other was hair from her brush. {I think women used to save their hair to be used in hair pieces if one was needed.} Grandma grew to be about 5' 8" tall. I think Grandpa may have been a little taller, maybe 5'10".

I asked my mother, Wilma Hathaway Woodhouse, what is the first thing that comes to mind when she remembers her mother-in-law Nellie. She said instantly, "her laugh, I remember how she would throw her head back and laugh". A nice way to be remembered. She said she remembers Grandpa Woodhouse as a quiet man, just as I do.

When Aunt Helen divorced Calvin Crampton she and my cousin Jeanne came to live with Grandma and Grandpa. It was while Aunt Helen and Jeanne were living with them that I remember a time when Aunt Helen and Grandma would cook up flax seed on the stove and stored this slimy stuff in a jar. They used it as a wave set. Aunt Helen and Aunt Mildred both had short "bobbed" hair and they soaked their hair, and sometimes mine, with the flax slime and then made elaborate "finger waves" with their fingers pinching a ridge and then shaping the wave guided by a comb. Then when the slime dried I remember that my hair was stiff as a board. I was cautioned not to touch it until they determined that it was really dry, then it could be combed out and I had nice deep waves that lasted quite a while.

When my cousins or my sisters and I visited Grandma and Grandpa there was a set of well worn wooden blocks in a brown paper bag in the closet in the back bedroom. After Grandpa died and Grandma sold their home and went to live with Aunt Helen in Ravenna. She divided up the bag of wooden blocks with the rounded corners, and faded alphabet, among her grandchildren. She gave me two of them and we put a eye screw in the corner of each, and put a string through it. My daughter Merrilee, who was old enough to remember "Grandma Nell", and I both put them on our Christmas trees every year. A nice reminder of Christmases at Grandma and Grandpa Woodhouses with aunts and uncles and cousins. I recall the big dinning room table stretched out with all the leaves in it. A white table cloth and many chairs crowded around the table. Platter after platter of wonderful food was passed around. All the women cooked and the men visited and discussed politics, etc. We kids stayed out of the way by playing with the blocks in the middle of the living room floor.

When spring rolled around some of the family always went to Mears on **Memorial Day** to decorate the graves of our

Woodhouse and Barton ancestors. Each Memorial Day my dad would take me by the hand and we would walk around from headstone to headstone and Dad would share some of his memories of that grandparent or aunt or uncle. Perhaps this was the beginning of my interest in our family history. I still make an annual pilgrimage to the Mears Cemetery every year to fill the urn on Grandma and Grandpa's graves and to say hello to each of those dear ones who have gone on before us.

Huckleberry Picking

My own memories of huckleberry picking when I was a child are that the first picking of huckleberries was in late July or early August and was a family affair. A picnic lunch was packed with fried chicken, fresh homemade bread maybe a potato salad and lemonade, lots of it, for the hot and thirsty crew. There would always be fresh pie for dessert.

It was a special day. Everyone would pile into the car with their picking pail. The children had a smaller size pail of course. It probably had held Karo Syrup first. Dad, and sometimes Uncle Jerry too would drive to the favorite huckleberry patch some distance away. There were times when all the family went together including aunts, uncles and grandma and grandpa. Everyone wore a straw hat to protect them from the hot sun. They would fill dish pans and the biggest kettles. It was a grand day because you could eat the sweet berries as you picked. You weren't supposed to eat them now, but everybody did, and all the kids at least had purple stains on their mouths and hands, and sometimes on their clothes.

When we all got home, tired and hot, the real work began. The berries needed to be sorted. The green berries and any grass and little twigs had to be taken out. Then the huckleberries were washed. You watched for any that floated because they were often the old dried up berries and needed to be removed. The next day the huckleberries were "canned". They were cooked and sealed in glass jars to be enjoyed for the months to come. Some of the berries were saved to be eaten fresh and we always had fresh huckleberry pie the next day. Yum!

FAMILY REUNION

Top row: Philip w/Coral, Wilma & Nellie Woodhouse; Fay & Mildred Wolverton; Belle & Gerald Woodhouse;

Middle row: Helen & Jeanne Crampton; Geraldine & Robert Wolverton; Harold & Raymond Woodhouse;

Front row: Arlene (Philip) Lois & Beverly (Gerald) Russell & Charles Wolverton.

When Howard and Nellie's four children were all retired adults they wintered in Florida, all but Gerald who lived there year round in Largo, They tried to get together at least once each winter.

Mildred, Philip Helen and Gerald Woodhouse

CHAPTER NINE

GERALD & ISABELLA WOODHOUSE

MARRIED NOVEMBER 4, 1916
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

RAYMOND - 1917
HAROLD - 1919
LOIS EVELYN - 1927
BEVERLY ANN - 1929
RICHARD GERALD - 1936

GERALD BARTON WOODHOUSE 1895-1965
ISABELLA MARY KUENY 1897-1970

GERALD BARTON WOODHOUSE6, (Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born August 10, 1895 in Muskegon, Michigan to Howard and Nellie Barton Woodhouse.

As a youth he worked for W. E. Bassett Grocery providing the first grocery delivery in Muskegon County according to his brother Philip. The W.E. Bassett Grocery was located on Lake Street. There weren't many automobiles then. I expect Gerald might have passed a few horse drawn carriages on the streets of Muskegon while tending to his delivery duties.

GERALD B. WOODHOUSE WITH FIRST GROCERY DELIVERY TRUCK IN MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

November 4, 1916 Gerald married **ISABELLA MARY KEUNY,** born May 30, 1897 in New York City, New York, to Leger (Leodicar) Kueny and Josepha Luthringer Kueny. Leger and Josepha came to America from Guebwiller, Alsace.
Belle's parents operated a hotel on Ruddiman Drive in North Muskegon, Michigan.

ISABELLA MARY KUENY

GERALD BARTON WOODHOUSE

Gerald and Belle were married November 4, 1916 in North Muskegon where they made their home at 1013 Mills Avenue, North Muskegon, Michigan.

Their first child, **Raymond Woodhouse7 (**Gerald6, Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born November 21, 1917 in North Muskegon.

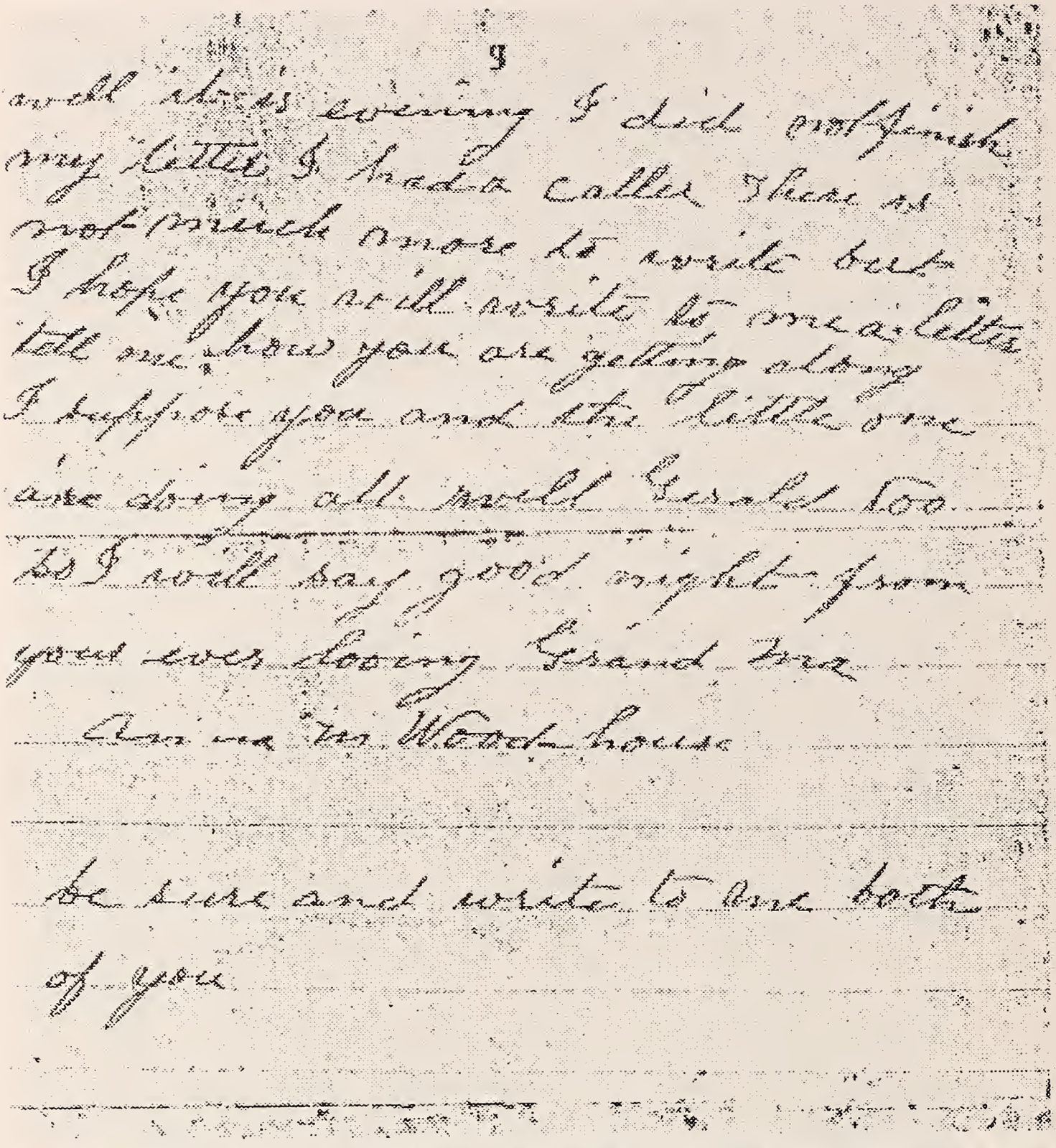
RAYMOND, HAROLD AND BELLE WOODHOUSE
CIRCA 1921

Mears Mich
Nov-18-1917.

My dear Grandchildren
Gerald and Belle   I received
your card announcing the arrival
of a little baby boy Well I hope
he will be as nice good boy like
love Gerald He was rather
small when the Stork left him
at your home and hope he
will keep well and there is lots
of room for him to grow I like
his Name Raymond Did you
Belle get along well I hope so
Well My children if it was
warm weather and he was old
enough to go to Muskegon
and hear his grandpa [illegible]

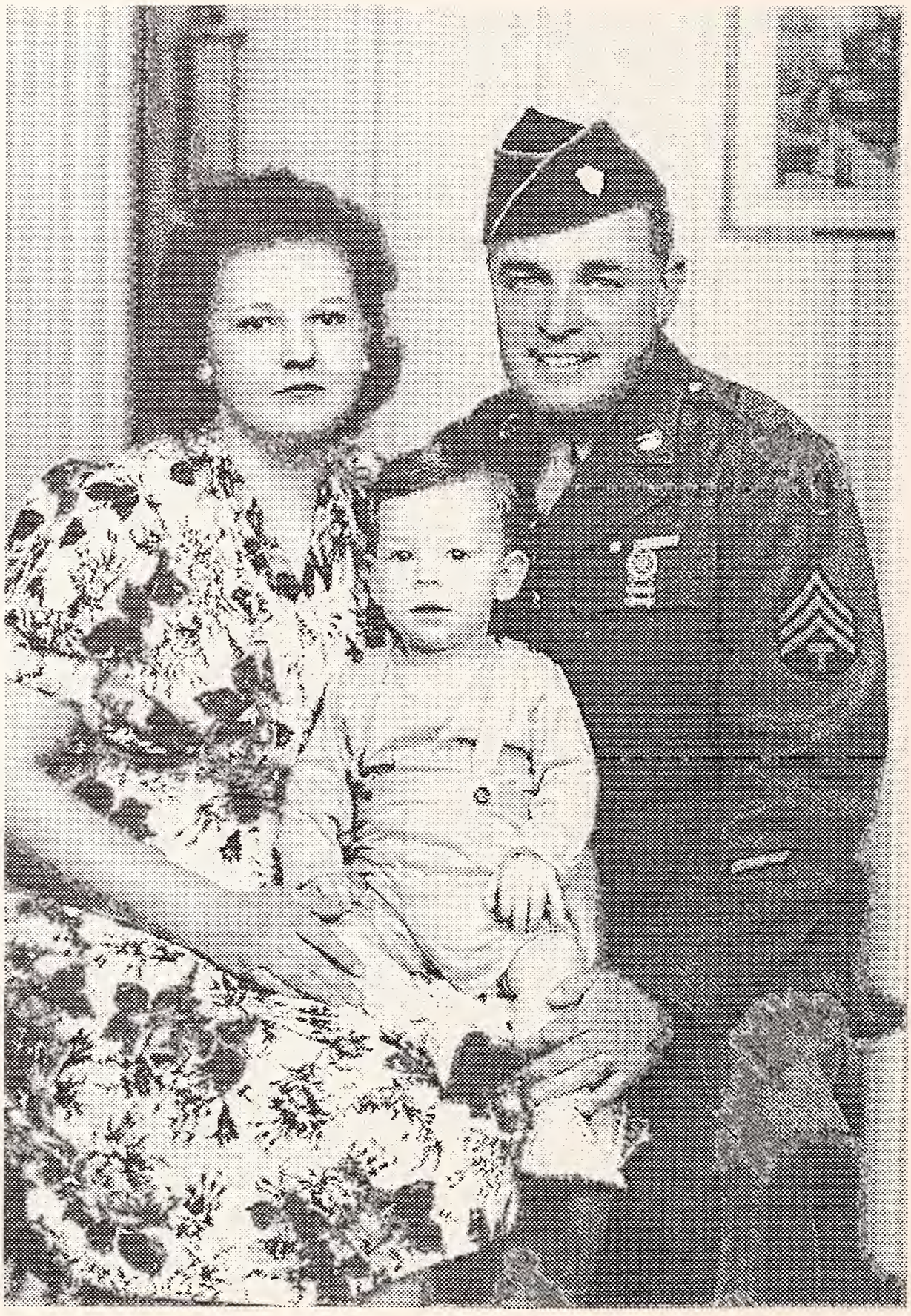
2

and Gerald baby's pa and baby's and my picture taken as we are of the 4th generation I think it would be nice but it is nearly three years since I was at Muskegon and Gerald gave us such a nice Auto ride surely I did enjoy that ride I would like to see you all but unless something happens I can't come this fall beside I feel too miserable I dread the cold winter but will get along as well as I can I may go and stay with Emma my daughter for a while after a while. We have had several weeks of beautiful nice weather after such a rainy summer.



LETTER FROM ANNA MARIA WOODHOUSE TO GERALD AND BELLE ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST CHILD, RAYMOND WOODHOUSE

HAROLD AND RAYMOND WOODHOUSE



RACHEL AND RAYMOND WOODHOUSE AND SON GARY

Raymond married Rachel Powers September 25, 1941. Their son Gary was born February 15, 1944. Ray was a technical sergeant in

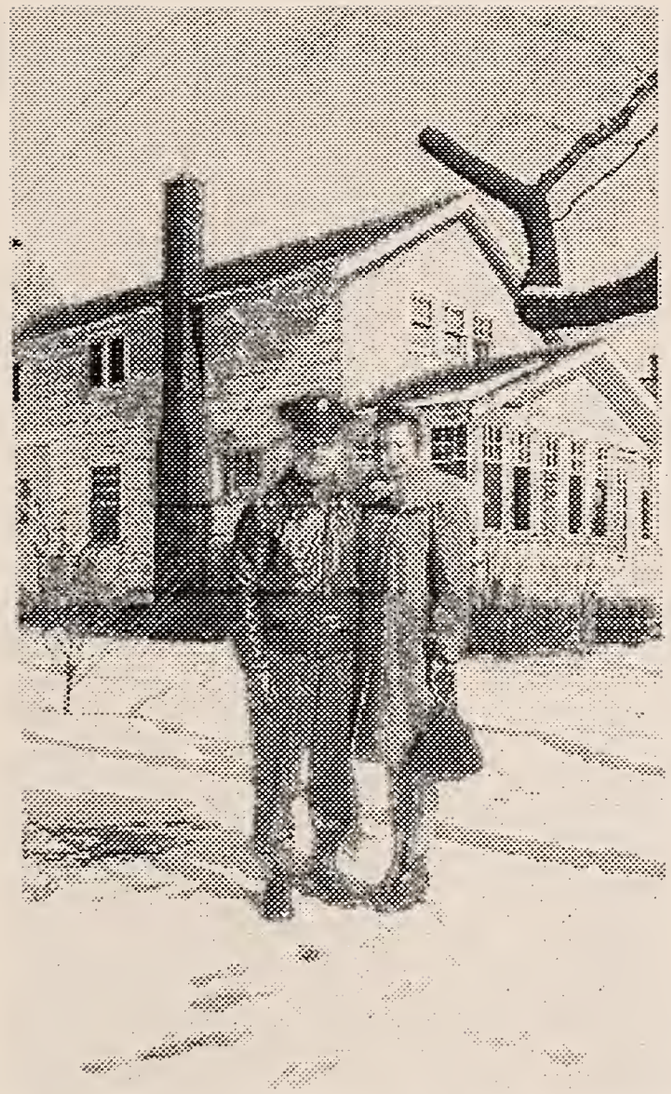
the U.S. Army during W.W.II. He worked as a clerk for the Oceana County Commission. He was a member of the Crystal Valley Methodist Church. Ray died in Hart, Michigan May 19, 1981. His son Gary died January 24, 1984 in Largo, Florida at age 39 years.

FOUR GENERATIONS

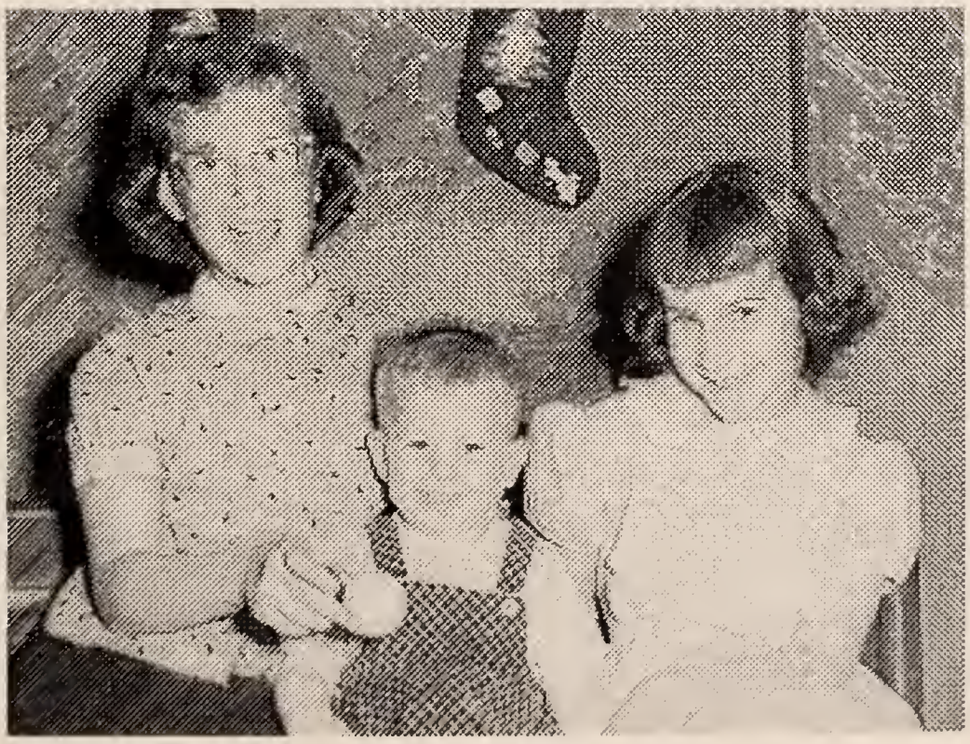
RAYMOND (father) HOWARD (gr. grandfather)baby GARY & GERALD (grandfather)

Gary Leslie Woodhouse8 was born February 15, 1944 to Ray and Rachel Woodhouse, in Hart, Michigan. He married Mary Ann Wright in Hart. They had two children: **Brian Michael Woodhouse9** born December 27, 1965. **Patrick D. Woodhouse9** born December 26, 1966 in Hart. They were divorced and he later married Dorothy Jane Kondash born December 16, 1940 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They had **Laura Lea Woodhouse9** born January 19, 1973 in Pinellas Park, Florida.

HAROLD (WOODY) WOODHOUSE NORTH MUSKEGON HIGH 1938



HAROLD & MARGARET



SHERRY, DAVID & CANDY WOODHOUSE

Photo courtesy of Margaret Woodhouse-Knapp

HAROLD WOODHOUSE7 (Gerald6, Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) graduated from North Muskegon High School. He was a member of the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. Harold married Margaret Marie Lawrence of Belleview, St. Clair County, Illinois January 1, 1944 in O'Fallon, Illinois.

Harold and Margaret lived in Traverse City, Michigan from 1953, where Harold was the branch manager for the Fitzpatrick Electric Company. He was active in civic and fraternal affairs and an ardent sportsman. He was a member of the Central Methodist Church in Traverse City and also a member of the Acme Masonic Lodge, Lions Club and a charter member of the club's Lighthouse group. Harold died in Traverse City September 27, 1962 at age 43 following a heart attack. He is buried in the Traverse City Memorial Cemetery.

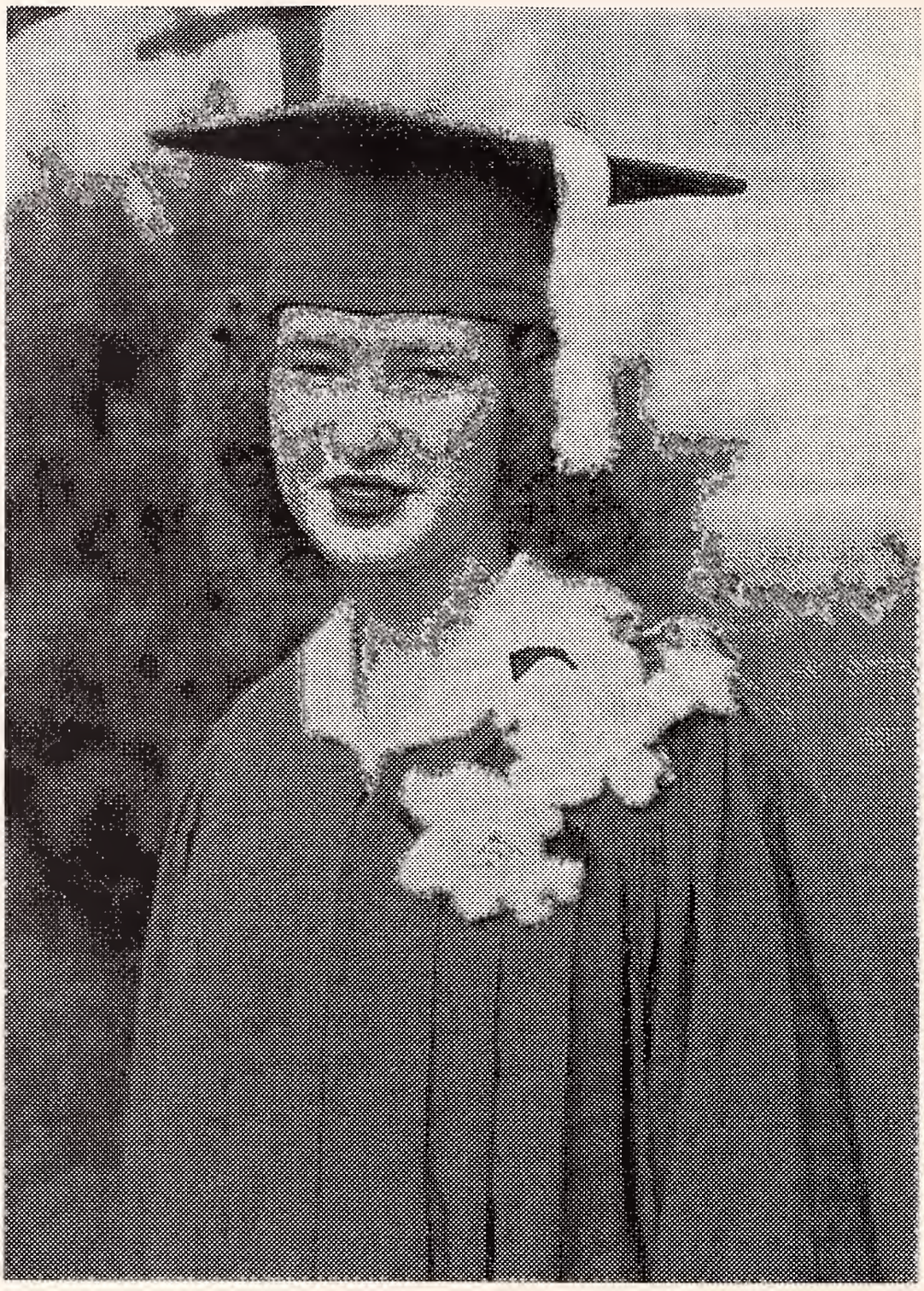
Harold and Margaret had three children. Their daughter **Sharon Kay Woodhouse8** was born October 16, 1944 at Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County, Illinois. Sherry married David Louis Feiger of Traverse City. They have sons **Michael David9** who is a wildlife biologist and **James Harold Feiger9.** is a mechanical engineer with a research institute in San Antonio, Texas. Sherry and David reside in John Day, Oregon. Sherry is an elementary school teacher and her husband Dave is retired from the U.S. Forest Service.

Harold and Margaret's second daughter, **Candace8** (Candy) **Woodhouse** was born June 23, 1949 in Muskegon, Michigan. Candy married Charles Evans Hughes August 1972. They were later divorced. Candy is head of the costume department for the Interlochen Academy of Arts in Interlochen, Michigan. She designs and sews costumes for theater and dance. She received a B.S. in art from Western Michigan University.

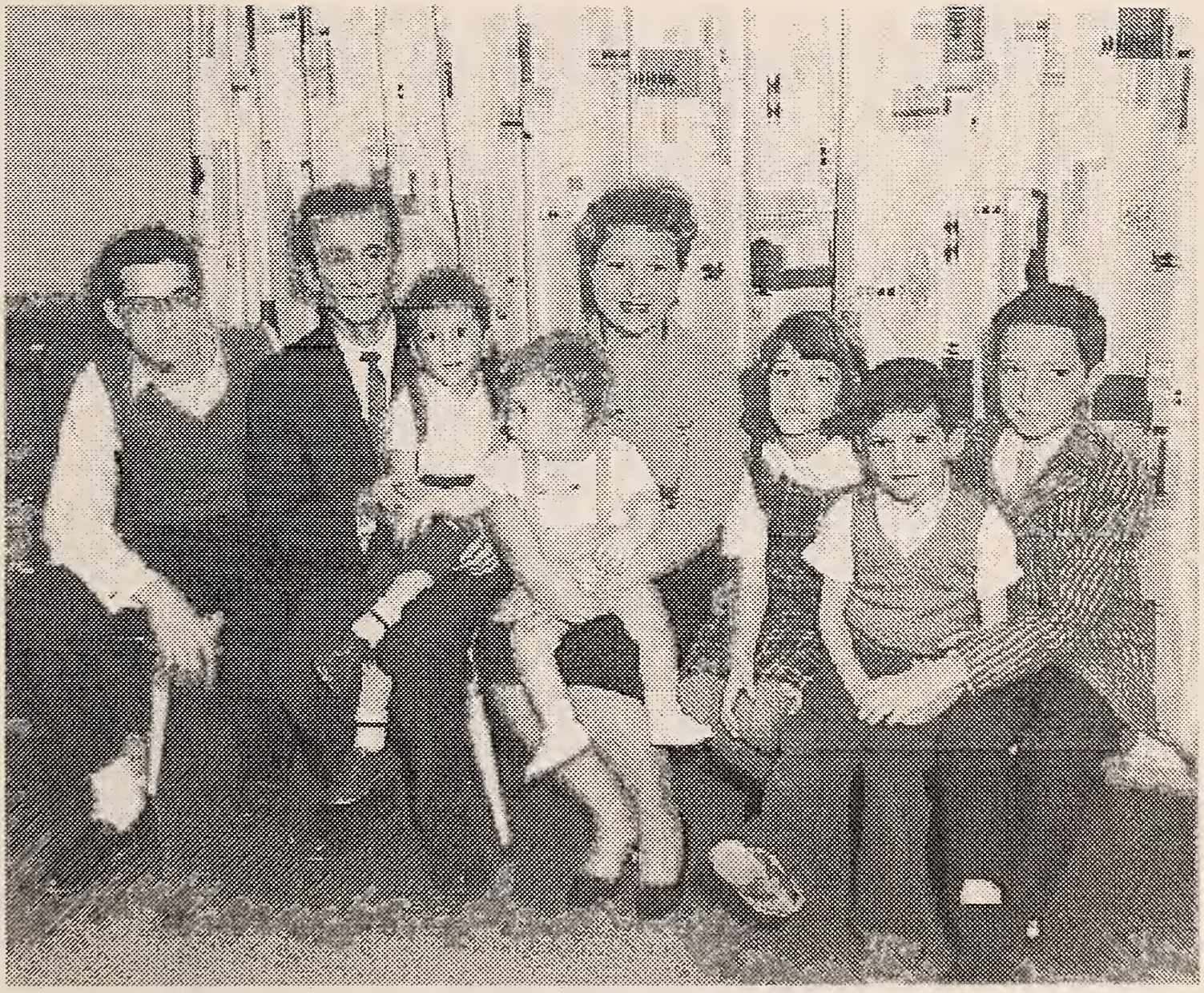
David Gerald Woodhouse8 was born to Harold and Margaret September 7, 1955 in Traverse City, Michigan. He married Pamela Reynolds in Boyne Falls, Emmett County, Michigan. They had one son, **Evan David Woodhouse9** born September 5, 1976 in Petoskey, Michigan. David and Pamela were later divorced. David "Woody" married Suzanne (Suki) Sherman May 7, 1995

LOIS EVELYN WOODHOUSE

Gerald and Belle's daughter, **Lois Evelyn Woodhouse7** (Gerald6, Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born January 7, 1927 in North Muskegon. Lois married, on January 20, 1946, **Dakus (Douglas) George Takesian** son of Garabed Charles Takessian and Shoghat Charlotte Aramian. Doug was born February 16, 1925 in Detroit, Michigan. They lived in Garden City, Michigan and later retired to Cave City, Arizona.



LOIS WOODHOUSE
GRADUATED NORTH MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL 1944

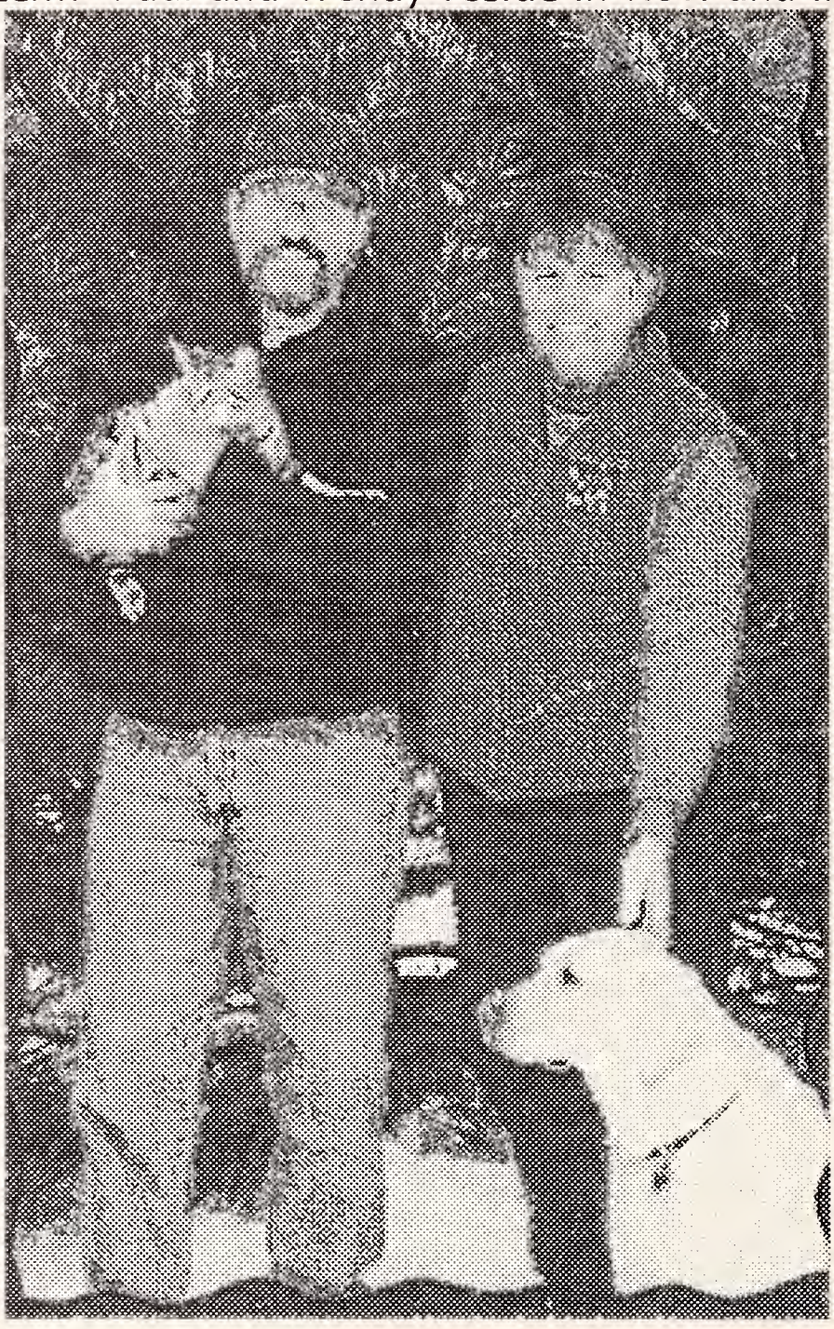


PAUL, DOUG, DAVID, MATTHEW, LOIS, SUSAN, STEVEN, TED TAKESIAN

Lois and Doug had six children. First **Paul Douglas Takessian8** (Gerald6, Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) born January 7, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan. After graduation from High School Paul was drafted into the U.S. Army. He took his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky in September 1967. He was then sent to ft. Lewis in the State of Washington until June of 1968 when he was sent to Saigon in vietnam for five months and then Bien Thuy for seven months.

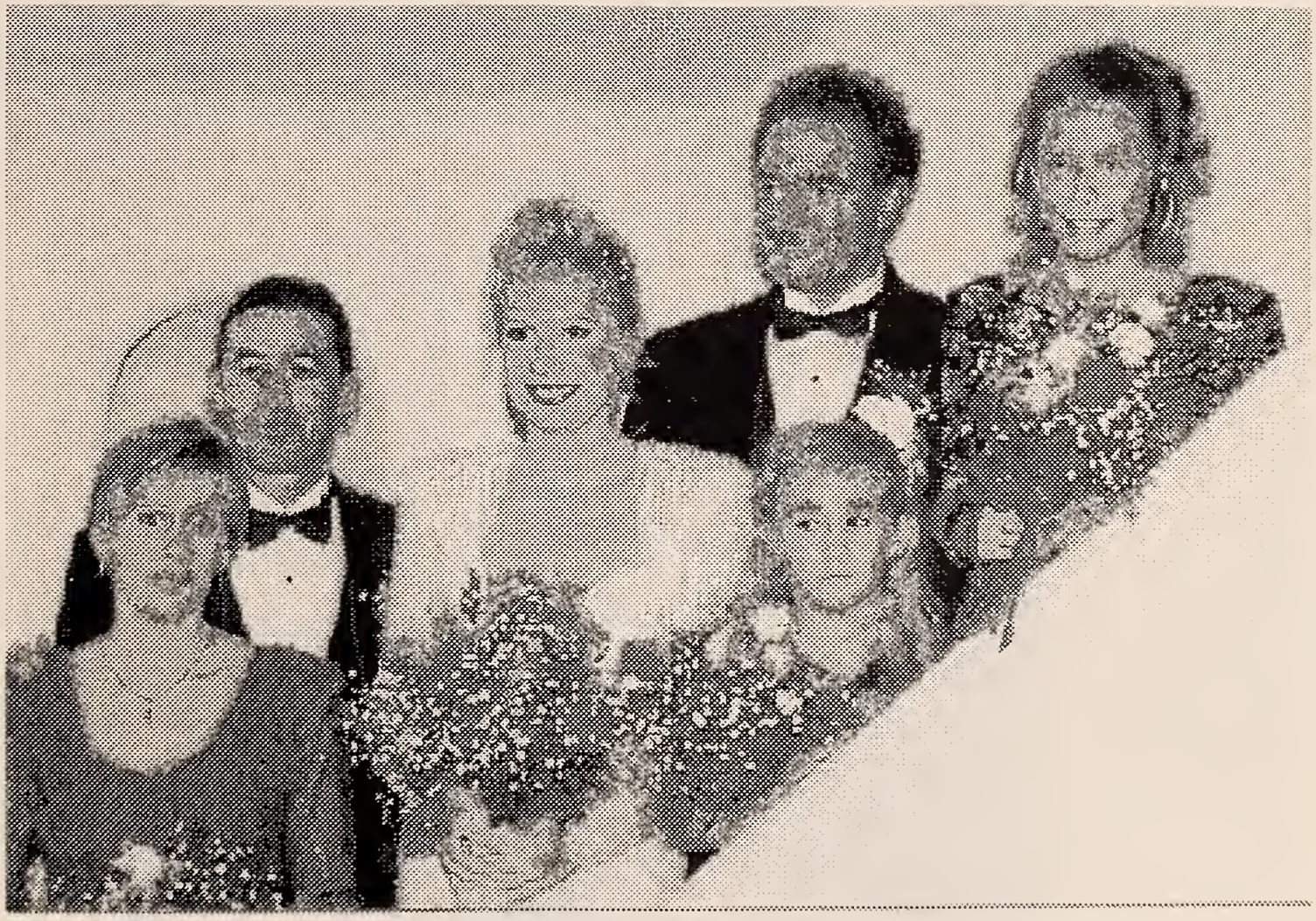
Paul worked for the Ford Motor Company in auto design. He retired from the Ford Motor Company in 2001. Paul's special interest is

making pottery. He married **Wendy P. Beckwith** September 8, 1990 in Jackson, Michigan. Wendy is the daughter of Wendell Beckwith and Elise Williams. Wendy is a school counselor in the Ann Arbor school system. Paul and Wendy reside in Novi and in Fremont.

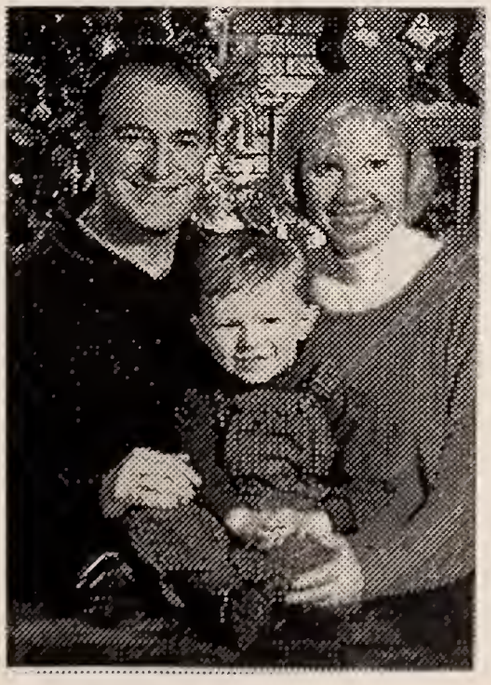


PAUL DOUGLAS TAKESSIAN AND WENDY P. BECKWITH with RAZZ the cat and HOLLY their dog.

Lois and Doug's second child, **Theodore Michael Takesian8** (Gerald6, Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) born May 14, 1950 in Detroit, Michigan. Ted is an attorney with an office in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Ted married first Diane Shipley. The were divorced and Ted later married **Cheryl Anne Krey** December 23, 1993 in Taos, New Mexico. They have one son **Jack Theodore Takesian9** born in August 1994 in Detroit, Michigan.

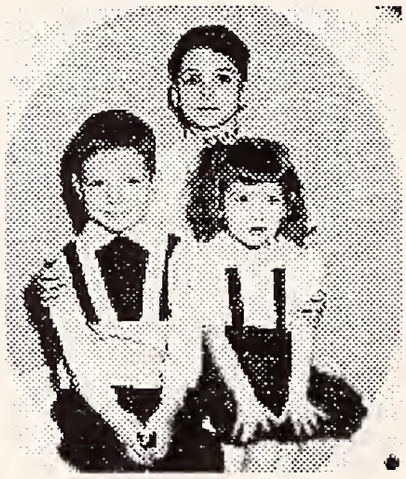


L to R: Kim Wever Smith, Jack R. Smith, Cheryl Krey Takesian, Ted Takesian, Kelsey Ann Smith, Kaely Troyer Smith (in front)



TED, CHERYL AND JACK TAKESIAN

Lois and Doug's third child, **Susan Marie Takessian8**(Gerald6, Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born August 13, 1952 in Detroit, Michigan. Susan is the third child and only daughter of Lois and Doug Takesian.



TED, PAUL AND SUSAN MARIE TAKESSIAN

SUSAN TAKESSIAN AND COUSIN DAVE COBURN 1991

Susan married Enwar Osman born February 11, 1947 in Germany. They were married in a mosque in Detroit. They have two children **Justin Barton Osman9** born July 22, 1974 in Detroit, Michigan and **Melissa Lynn Osman9** born April 21, 1977 in Livonia, Michigan.

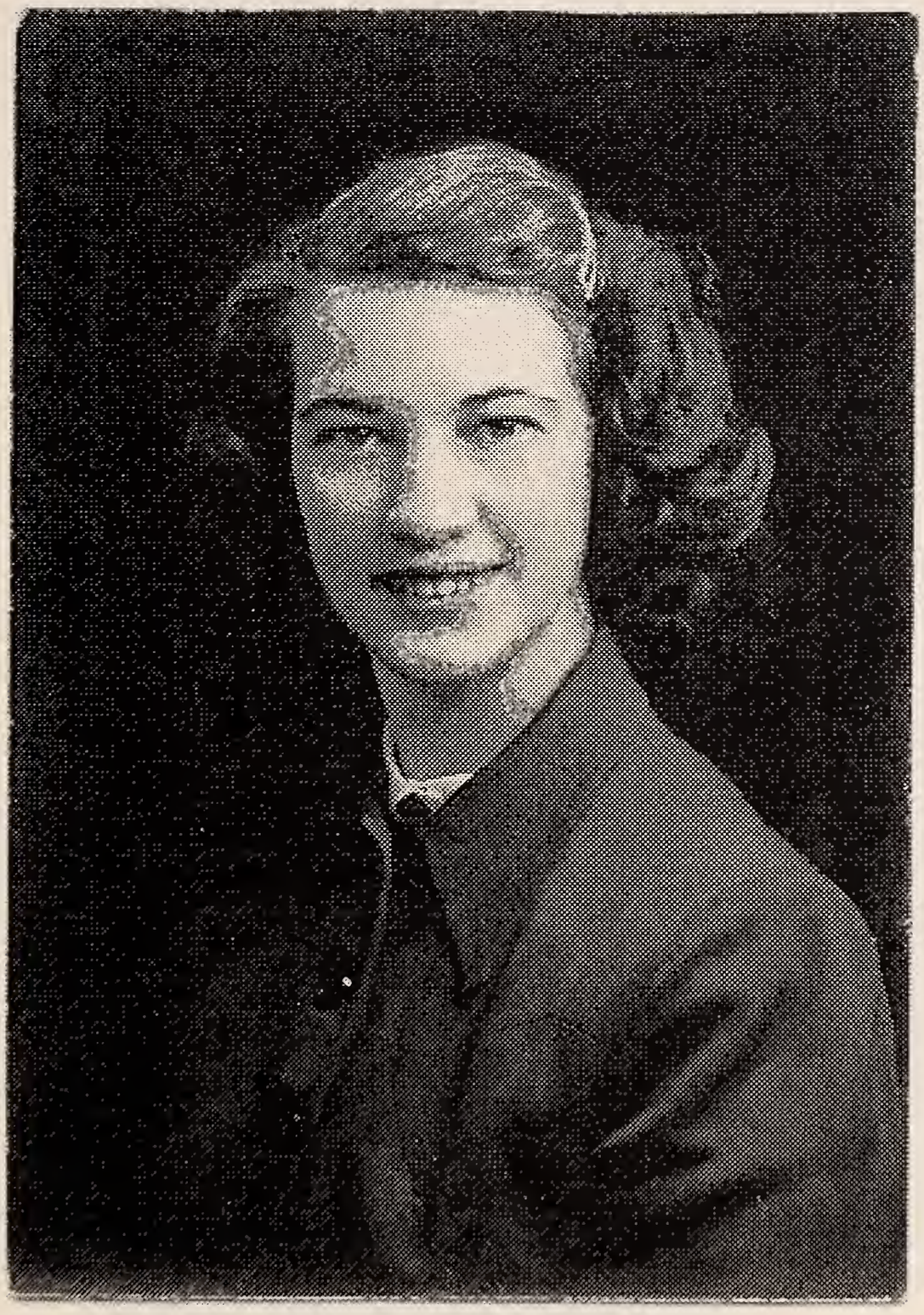
SCOTT, SEAN, KAMLA WITH SARAH AND STEVEN TAKESIAN

Steven Gerald Takesian8 (Gerald6, Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born May 24, 1957 in Highland Park, Michigan. Steven married Kamala Sue Ulrich born June 6, 1955 in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Kam is the daughter of Emery and Annette (Buckland) Ulrich and is a nurse in Cave City, Arizona. Steve and Kam have three children: **Sean Douglas Takesian9** born December 22, 1985 in Detroit, Michigan. **Stephen "Scott" Takesian9** born February 16, 1987 in Detroit, Michigan, and **Sarah Milan Takesian9** born October 1993 in Cave City, Arizona, where Steve and his family reside. Steve is a race car fan.

David Aram Takesian8, the fifth child of Lois and Doug was born December 17, 1958 in Highland Park, Michigan. David married first **Cheryl Matthews** and from this union was born **Christopher Takesian9.**

He married second, **Elaine Elizabeth Schnupp**, July 18, 1992 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Elaine was born December 29, 1986 in Pittsburgh. They have two daughters, **MacKenzie Takesian9** born May 25, 1993 and **Mara Takesian9** born December 27, 1995. Both daughters were both in Garden City, Michigan.

The six child of Lois and Doug is **Matthew Aris Takesian8** born December 19, 1960 in Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan. Matthew married Diane Marie Minton December 30, 1980. Diane was born February 5, 1962 in Detroit, Michigan.
Matt and Diane have two sons. **Jason Simon Takesian9** born April 24, 1981 and **Joshua Eric Takesian9** born October 10, 1985. Both sons were born in Detroit.

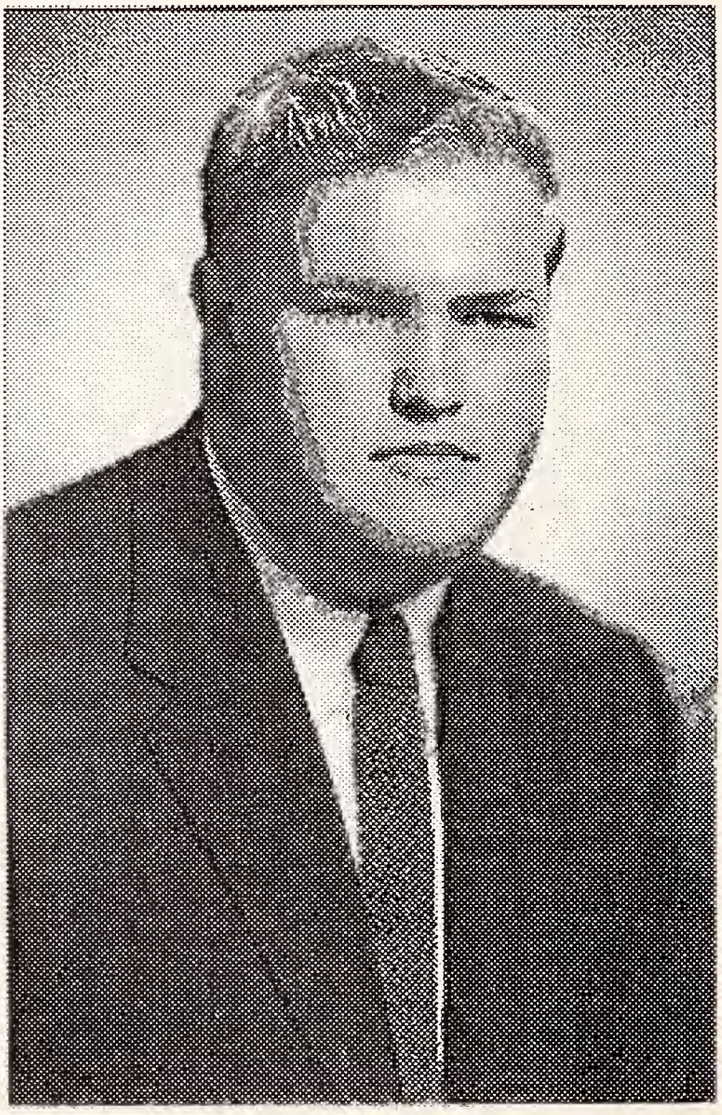


BEVERLY ANN WOODHOUSE

Gerald and Belle Woodhouse's fourth child is **Beverly Ann Woodhouse7**, born February 21, 1929 in North Muskegon, Michigan. Beverly attended North Muskegon Schools and when her parents retired and moved to Largo, Florida she moved with them. Bev. now lives in Seminole, Florida. (2002)

The fifth and last child of Gerald and Belle Woodhouse is **Richard Gerald Woodhouse7** born November 11, 1936 in North Muskegon, Michigan. Dick also graduated from North Muskegon High School. He was active in the Masonic DeMolay as a youth, and made many friends through this group.

When Dick was 29 years old he married **Margaret Carol Hardin** October 9, 1965 in Washington, D. C.. Carol was born April 28, 1939 in Washington, D. C. Carol was the daughter of Clyde Hardin and Mary E. Wise. He was a photographer and worked in the darkroom for police photography. He wrote once that he had spent a week in 1996 in a F.B.I. Fingerprint Classification School and found it very intense and very interesting. Dick and Carol lived in North Carolina. Richard G. Woodhouse died December 9, 1997 in Enka, North Carolina.



RICHARD GERALD WOODHOUSE

CAROL AND RICHARD WOODHOUSE

back row: Lois, Beverly, Raymond, Harold, Richard
front row: Gerald and Belle Woodhouse

Gerald Barton Woodhouse died March 24, 1965 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Isabella Mary Kueny Woodhouse died March 22, 1970 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Both are buried with Belles parents and grandparents in the Laketon Township Cemetery, Muskegon, Michigan.

CHAPTER TEN

HELEN MAE & CALVIN CRAMPTON

MARRIED (date unknown)
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

AUDREY - (d.o.b. unknown)
JEANNE MAE - 1921

HELEN MAE WOODHOUSE 1898-1980

HELEN MAE WOODHOUSE6 (Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born May 13, 1898 to Howard and Nellie Woodhouse. She was born in Mears, Oceana County, Michigan. Most of her "growing up years" were spent in the John Street (now Leahy Street) house in Muskegon, Michigan.

The Howard Woodhouse family were members of the Laketon Baptist Church and the girls, Helen and her sister Mildred were part of a large church youth group for girls called Philathea. According to her brother, Philip, it was a close knit group and much of their social life centered around it. When Helen and Gerald and Mildred were old enough they sometimes during the summer, would ride the train to Mears, in Oceana County, to stay with their grandma Anna Woodhouse. Sometimes they would pick cherries for money for school clothes.

HELEN MAE WOODHOUSE

HELEN MAE WOODHOUSE REMEMBERED AS A FUN LOVING AND VERY KIND PERSON. ALWAYS HELPING OTHERS

Helen married Calvin Crampton and they had two daughters. Baby **Audrey** died in infancy and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Muskegon, Michigan. **Jeanne Mae Crampton7** (Helen6, Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) born June 3, 1921 in Muskegon, Michigan.

CALVIN CRAMPTON AND HELEN MAE WOODHOUSE

Helen divorced Calvin Crampton and she and Jeanne went to live with her parents, Howard and Nellie Woodhouse, who were now living on Ruddiman Drive in North Muskegon.

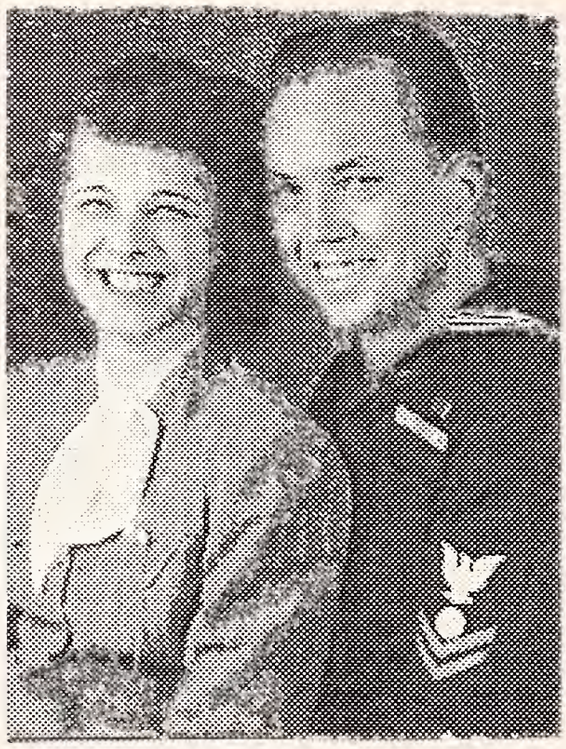
My own memories: My cousin Jeanne was about ten or eleven when she and Aunt Helen came to live with Grandma and Grandpa Woodhouse. I think she may have been about 11 when she "baby sat" my sister Coral and me. When I started kindergarten at North Muskegon Elementary, Jeanne was given the chore of seeing me home from school at noon. One day as we approached the entrance to the alley behind Buwalda's Store I skipped ahead of Jeanne just as a woman was driving out of the alley. The car hit me and knocked me down. Miraculously I was not injured but Jeanne was hysterical and the woman driver was understandably upset. I was mainly concerned about the discipline I was sure I would get for letting go of Jeanne's hand and going ahead of her. The woman took us both home and she came in and told my mother what had happened. That is all I remember of the incident.

JEANNE MAE CRAMPTON

Jeanne graduated from North Muskegon High School and went into the Woman's Auxiliary Army Corp (WAAC's) during WWII. It was during this time that she met **Robert Coburn** the son of Samuel and Katherine Coburn of Muskegon. Bob was born January 11, 1922 in Fremont, Michigan.

HELEN AND JEANNE HOME ON LEAVE FROM THE WAAC WWII

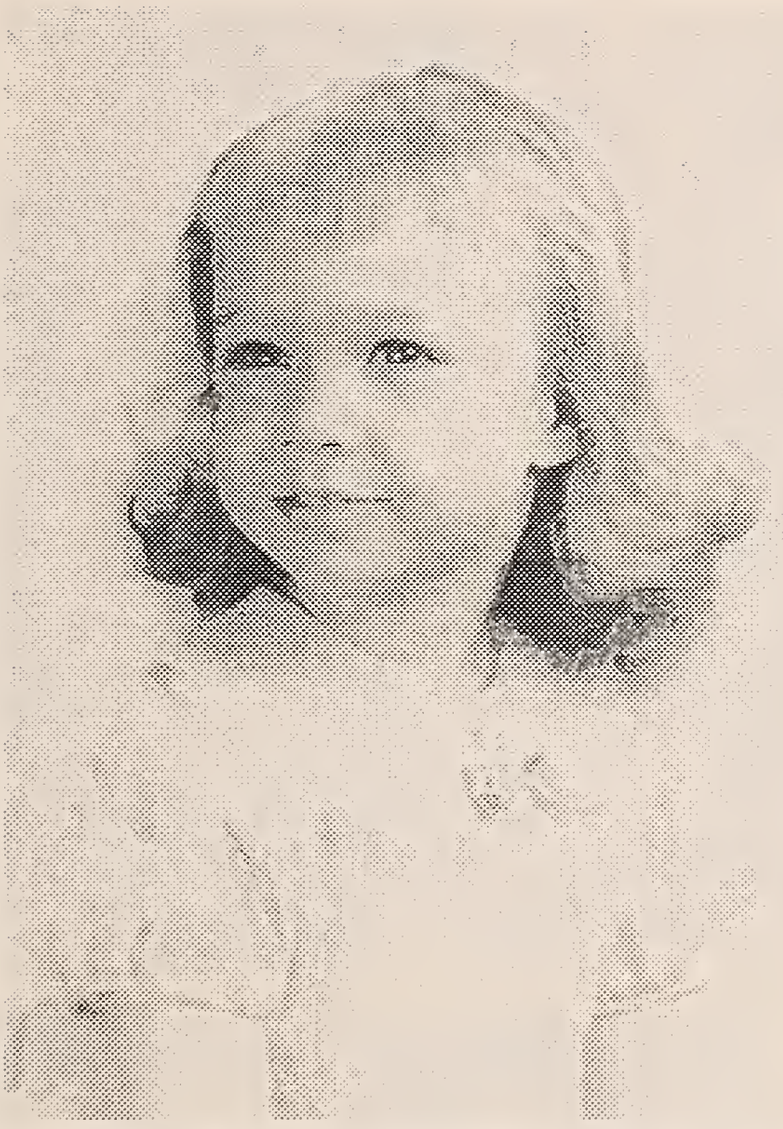
Jeanne had a lovely singing voice and she could whistle beautifully. One Christmas, about 1944 when she was home on leave from the WAAC's, she was hired by Grossman's Department Store in Muskegon to whistle Christmas songs for the holiday shoppers.



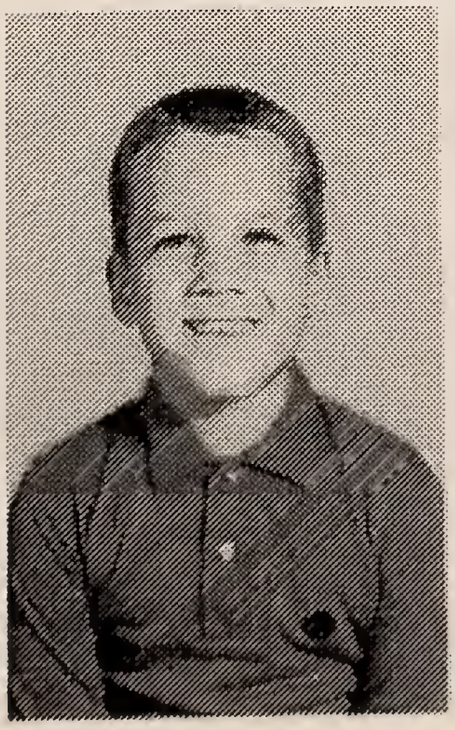
JEANNE AND BOB COBURN

Bob was in the U.S. Navy when he and Jeanne met. They were married January 31, 1945 in California. They had three children;

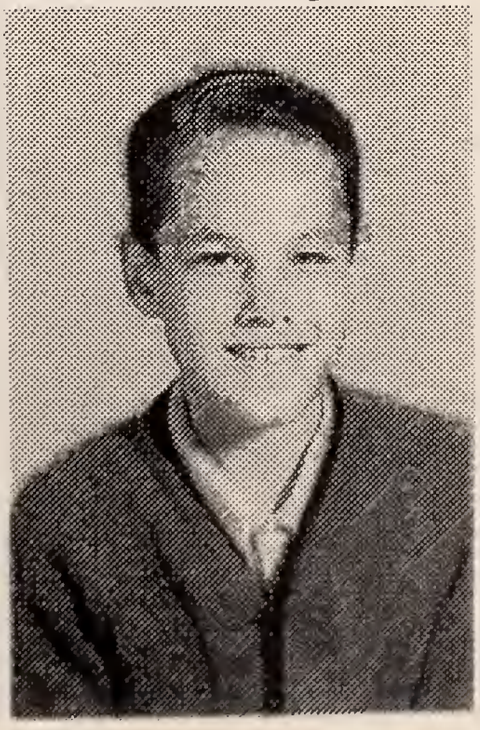
ROBERTA, DAVID, ROBERT, JEFFERY, JEANNE COBURN



ROBERTA JEANNE COBURN about 3 years old



JEFFERY COBURN age 7



DAVID COBURN age 12

Roberta Jeanne Coburn8 December 24, 1948. Roberta married Allen Wrona. She has six children; **Chris, Michelle, Michael, Stacey, Lisa, Angela, and Sherry, all 9th generation Woodhouse's.** Roberta is a hair dresser and lives in Florida.

DAVID AND JENNI COBURN

David Coburn9 was born August 8, 1952. Dave joined the Navy at in 1969 at age 17. He married first Mary Elizabeth Zawicki in 1971 and lived in Rochester, Michigan. Dave worked first for the Chrysler Corp. in Warren, Michigan. They had a daughter **Shonda Marie**

Coburn10 born December 11, 1972 in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Shonda Marie has a daughter named **Skyler11**. David and Mary E. were divorced.
David moved to Florida in 1980 and married a second time to Virginia Lee Stow. Dave and Jenni live in Tampa, Florida where he is in the automotive transport business and he has worked 16 years hauling automobiles.

JEFFERY ALLEN COBURN AND HIS DAUGHTER KRISTINA

Jeffery Allen Coburn9, the youngest of Bob and Jeannes children was born in Plainfield, Indiana. He has one daughter, **Kristina R. Coburn.**

ROBERTA, DAVID, BOB, JEFFERY, AND JEANNE COBURN

Bob and Jeanne were living at 8459 Leslie Street in Sterling Heights, Michigan when on October 14, 1973 they were both killed in an automobile accident. They died in the Mount Clemens General Hospital. Bob was the Regional Sales Manager for Cam-Lok Division of Empire Products, a member of Bruce Post #1146 VFW, St. Clair Shores, Masonic Lodge #616, Dayton, Ohio. The Muslim Shrine and Scottish Rite both of Detroit.

Funeral services were held at the Diener Funeral Home in Utica, Michigan and also at the Tate Funeral Home in Ravenna, Michigan. They are buried in the Ravenna Cemetery.

SANFORD AND HELEN ROLLENHAGEN

April 30, 1938 Helen Mae Crampton met and married Sanford Melvin Rollenhagen, born April 2, 1900. He was a farmer of Ravenna, Michigan. They lived on a farm next door to Sanford's parents and brothers who were also farmers. Uncle "Sam" as all his nieces and nephews called him, was a large man who was gentle and spoke

slowly and softly always. He would put a several of the visiting nieces and nephews on the back of a big draft horse at once and let them ride in the fields on the farm.

Uncle Sam died October 18, 1968 at age 68 of a heart attack in his farm home in Ravenna. The funeral was held at the Tate Funeral Home and he is buried in the Ravenna Cemetery.

Aunt Helen was a nice lady with a warm personality. In later years, after Uncle Sam died she sold the farm and moved into a little house on Center Street in Ravenna. She was active in the Ravenna Methodist Church and when in later years she wasn't able to get out much, she knitted beautiful little baby layette sets of bonnets, little sweaters and booties and sold the sets for $5.00. The money was for a fund that the church was raising. Many babies in the family started out life with these little garments knit by Aunt Helen.

Aunt Helen died August 8, 1980 in Ravenna at age 82. After her death, her grand niece Debbie Hanson Gundy bought her house and lived there for many years.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

MILDRED & FAY WOLVERTON

MARRIED (date unknown)

CHILDREN:

ROBERT EARL - 1921
CHARLES HOWARD - 1922
RUSSELL - 1923
GERALDINE 1924

MILDRED EDITH WOODHOUSE 1901 -1991
FAY WOLVERTON 1898 - 1937

MILDRED EDITH WOODHOUSE

MILDRED EDITH WOODHOUSE6 (Howard5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) the third child of Howard and Nellie, was born March 28, 1901 in Muskegon, Michigan.

Mildred spent some of her childhood on a farm in Mears, Michigan but most of her growing up years were spent in the Woodhouse family home on John Street. Mildred and her sister Helen were very close.

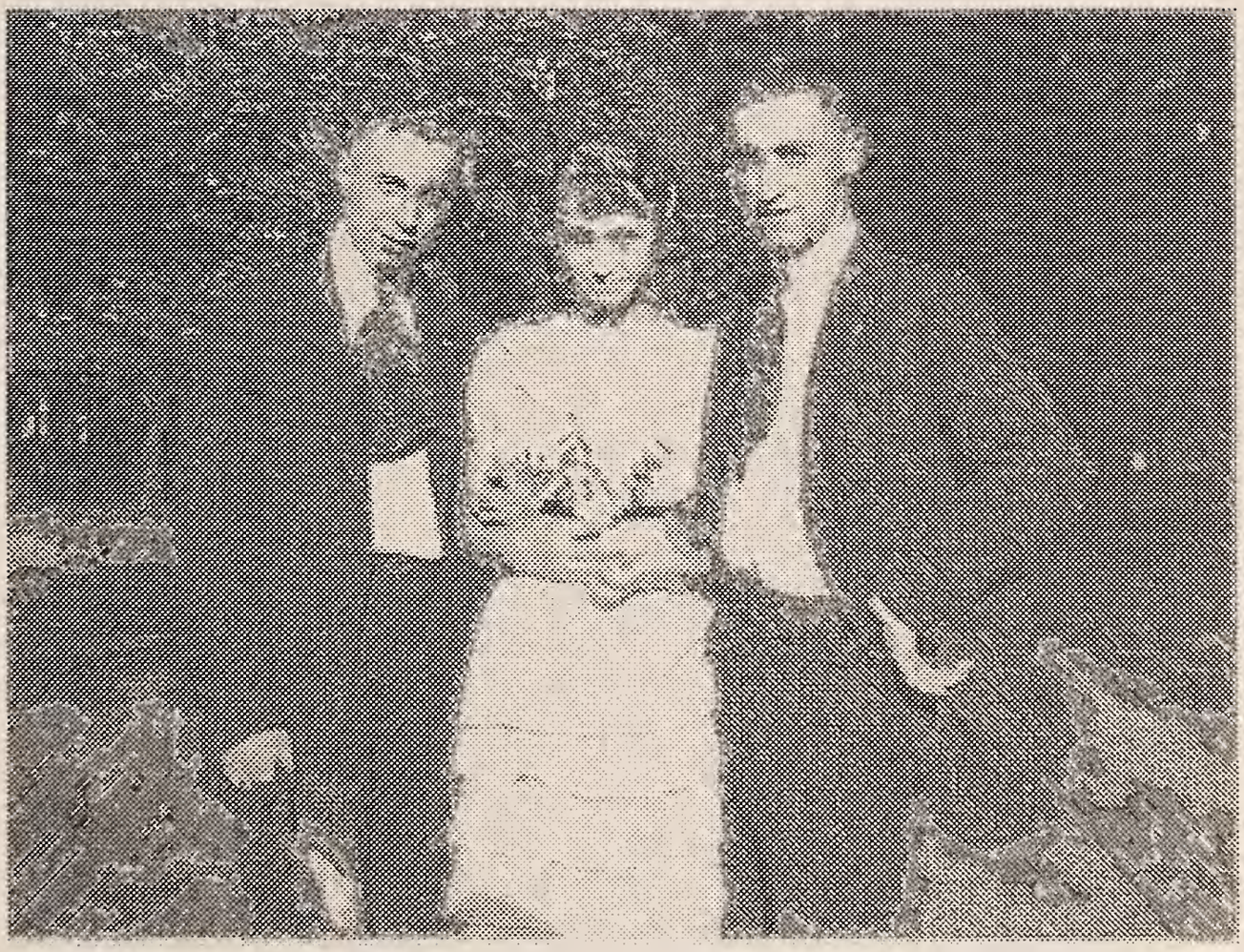
SISTERS HELEN & MILDRED

HELEN & MILDRED WOODHOUSE

MILDRED EDITH WOODHOUSE

Mildred married Fay Wolverton who was born April 14, 1898 in Vickerville, Michigan to Charles Wolverton and Electra Phillips.

FAY WOLVERTON



CAL CRAMPTON, MILDRED WOLVERTON AND FAY WOLVERTON

Fay Wolverton was in the United State Army during W.W.I. He died June 28, 1937 as a result of the effect of mustard gas from his service overseas. He was only 39 years old. Mildred was left to raise their four children alone. They were **Robert Earl Wolverton, Charles Howard Wolverton, Russell Wolverton, and Geraldine Wolverton.**

Geraldine told me that after their father died the school principal helped all four children get work permits to work after school to help out with the family income. The boys had paper routes and worked at a bowling alley setting pins. Geraldine worked too even at 13 years of age. She said it was all right because they grew up knowing how to work.

WOLVERTON CHILDREN
CHARLES, GERALDINE, ROBERT, RUSSELL

ROBERT EARL WOLVERTON7 was born December 30, 1921 in Big Rapids, Michigan. He was 16 years old when his father died. Bob was in the U. S. Army during W.W.II. He was a Tool and Die Maker by trade and was a ham radio operator for many years and earned his D Ham license, the highest that could be had at that time. His uncle Phil Woodhouse liked to think he had some influence on Bob when he chose Tool and Die Making for a trade.

BOB AND MARY JANE WOLVERTON

On September 5, 1942 Bob married Mary Jane Petersen daughter of Christian Petersen and Viva Peert Huyck. Mary Jane was born in Sidney, Michigan.

Bob and Mary Jane were married in Greenville, Montcalm County, Michigan. Bob and Mary Jane had three children; **Faye Lou Wolverton, Chris Robert Wolverton and Paul E. Wolverton.** all born in Greenville, Michigan. Bob died December 25, 1982 in Holt, Michigan.

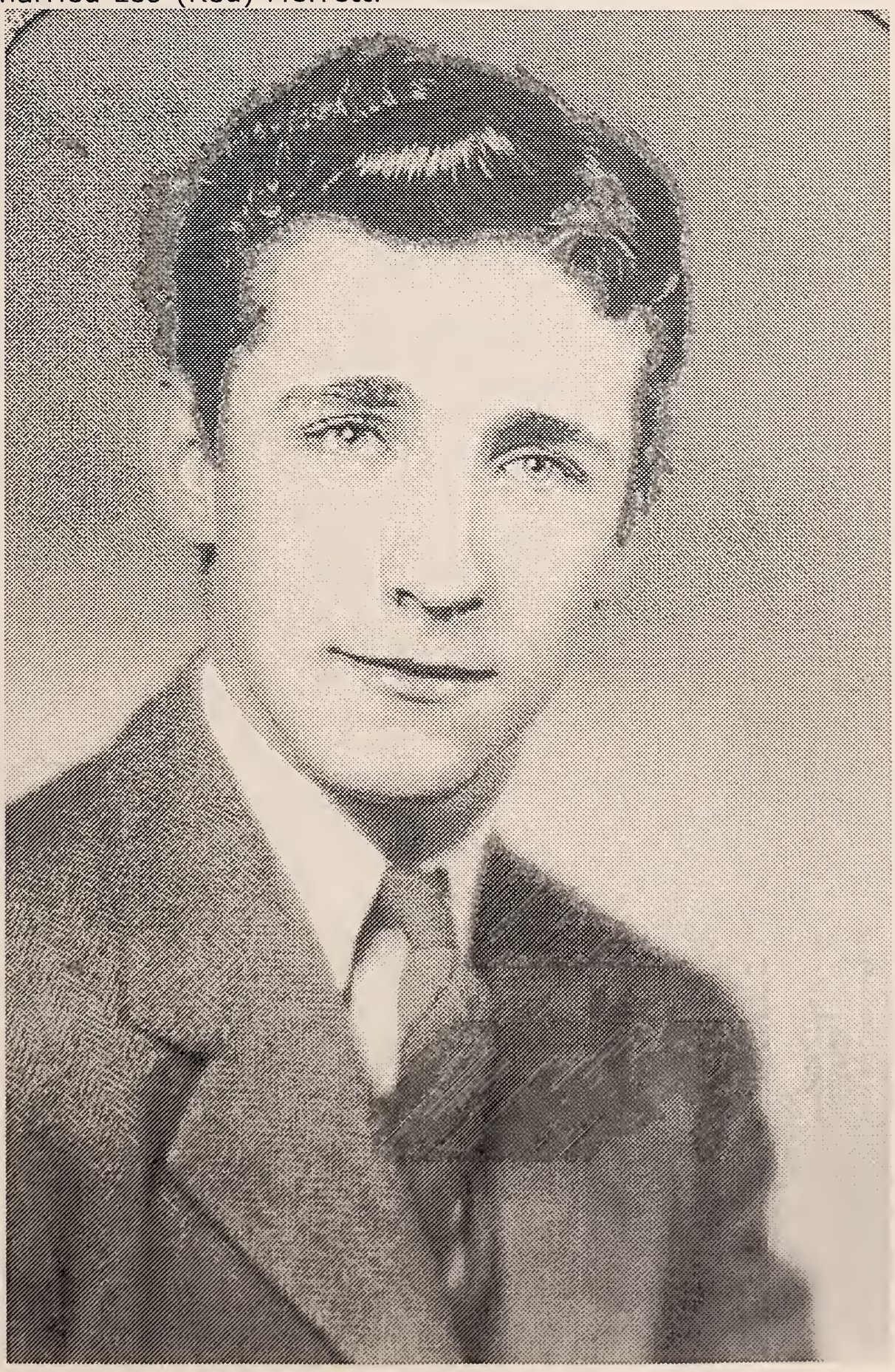
Faye Lou Wolverton8 the first child and only daughter of Bob and Mary Jane was born December 13, 1943. She married Richard Paul Corey December 1, 1961 in Sidney, Michigan. Dick Corey was born July 1, 1940 in Lansing, Michigan. Dick is owner of the Twin Bay Glass Company in Rapid City, Michigan. Faye Lou is a book keeper. They are affiliated with the Unity Church.

Faye Lou and Dick have three children, all were born in Lansing, Michigan. **Leslie Kay Corey9,** born May 8, 1962, married Jay Allen Armstrong October 19, 1991 in Traverse City, Michigan. **Denise Marie Corey9** born March 19, 1965 married Lawrence R. Henderson. **Dawn Louise Corey9** married Robert Reuschle July 27, 1991 in Jacksonville, Florida. Dawn and Rob have a son **James Richard Reuschle10** born Mary 1, 1992.

Chris Robert Wolverton8 was born November 1, 1946 in Greenville, Michigan. Chris married Connie Elaine Krowen, daughter of Bennett Krowen and Margaret Madsen. Connie was born February 27, 1950 in Plentywood, Sheridan County, Montana. Chris was in the U.S. Military and in Computer Sales. Chris and Connie have two daughters: **Sharnael Dee Wolverton9** born September 13, 1970. Sharnael married Stephen Pennell born May 2, 1970. They have a daughter **Shaen London Wolverton10** and **Karmen Rae Wolverton10** born February 25, 1974 in South Hampton, New York. In a letter from Chris dated April 10, 1992 he said his oldest daughter, Sharnael was at the University of England for the last semester of her junior year and Karmen would be starting at the University of Louisiana that fall.
Paul Wolverton8 was born January 29, 1948 in Greenville, Michigan. Paul married Carol Vargas born December 20, 1957 in Dimondale, Michigan. They have one son, **Sam Wolverton9** born September 19, 1985 in Las Vegas. Nevada.

CHARLES HOWARD WOLVERTON7 was born December 20, 1922 in Muskegon, Michigan. Charles was in the U.S. Army during W.W.II and served overseas. He was a barber by trade went to a barber school in Flint. He worked in a barber shop with his brother Russell for a while. Charles married Mary Lou Whiters daughter of Samuel Whiters and Eloise Derby. Mary Lou was born September 11, 1926

in Greenville, Michigan. Charles died August 21, 1980 in Holt, Michigan. He is buried in Vickerville, Michigan. Mary Lou later married Leo (Red) Merrett.



CHARLES HOWARD WOLVERTON

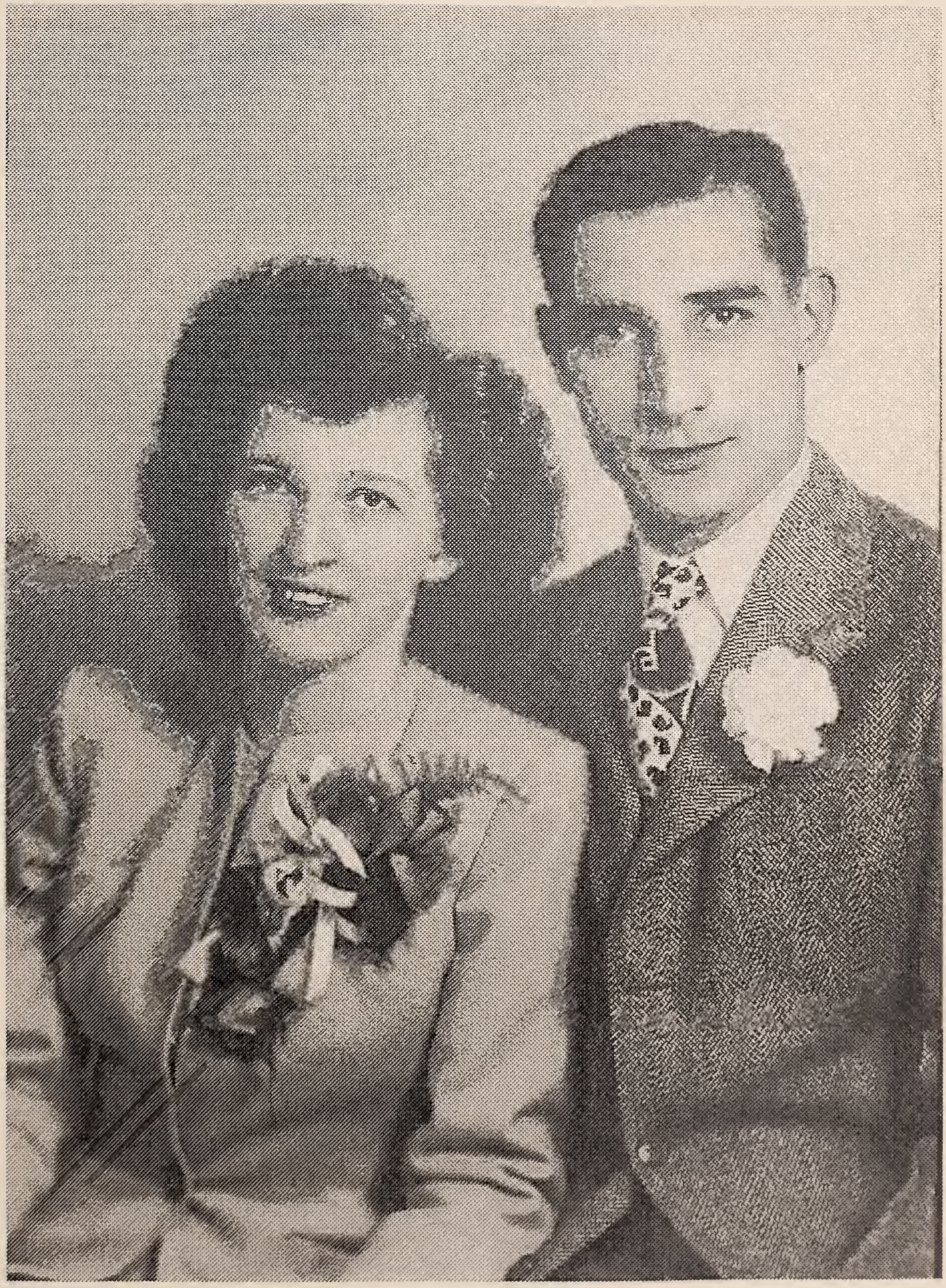
Chuck and Mary Lou had three children. Their first child was **Charles Jeffrey Wolverton8**, was born November 16, 1946 in Greenville, Michigan. Jeff married Celeste K. Keel August 16, 1968 in Flint, Michigan. Celeste was born July 23, 1949 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jeff and Celeste have three children: **Lisa Celeste Wolverton9** born March 11, 1969 in Flint, Michigan, **Shelly K. Wolverton9** born February 25, 1975 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The third is **Erin Marie Wolverton9** born April 18, 1977 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Kathryn Wolverton8 was the second child born to Chuck and Mary Lou November 10, 1948 in Greenville, Michigan. Kathryn married first Gordon Ward. They had two sons; **Shayne Michael Ward9** born September 25, 1970 and **Steven Charles Ward9** born August 27, 1973. Both born in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Kathryn married second Michael Gregory Persons May 22, 1987. Michael was born July 30, 1954 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to George and Rena Persons. Kathryn and Michael have a daughter, **Katie Elizabeth Persons9** born October 30, 1987.

Victoria D. Wolverton8 was born to Chuck and Mary Lou August 10, 1953 in Greenville, Michigan. Vicki married Michael C. Arntz September 11, 1971 in Greenville. Michael was born May 18, 1951 in Greenville, to Ivan William Arntz and Betty Lou Sorensen. Michael and Vicki have three children. They are **Chad Michael Arntz9** born November 29, 1972 in Greenville, **Andrew William Arntz9** born September 28, 1975 in Greenville and **Molly Kathryn Arntz9** born August 27, 1981 in Greenville.



BETTY AND RUSSELL WOLVERTON

Mildred and Fay's third child, **Russell Wolverton7** was born November 10, 1923 in Greenville, Michigan. Russell was a barber by trade and went to the same barber school in Flint, Michigan that Chuck did. The two brothers worked at the same barber shop in Greenville for awhile. Russell was in the United States Air Force during World War II,

Russ married Betty Moorhead March 23, 1946. Betty was born September 18, 1924 to Clyde Moorhead and Florence Scott and grew up in Ionia, Michigan. She was a secretary at Baldwin Heights School until retirement.

Betty Wolverton, Judy VanSyckle and Russ Wolverton-June 1991

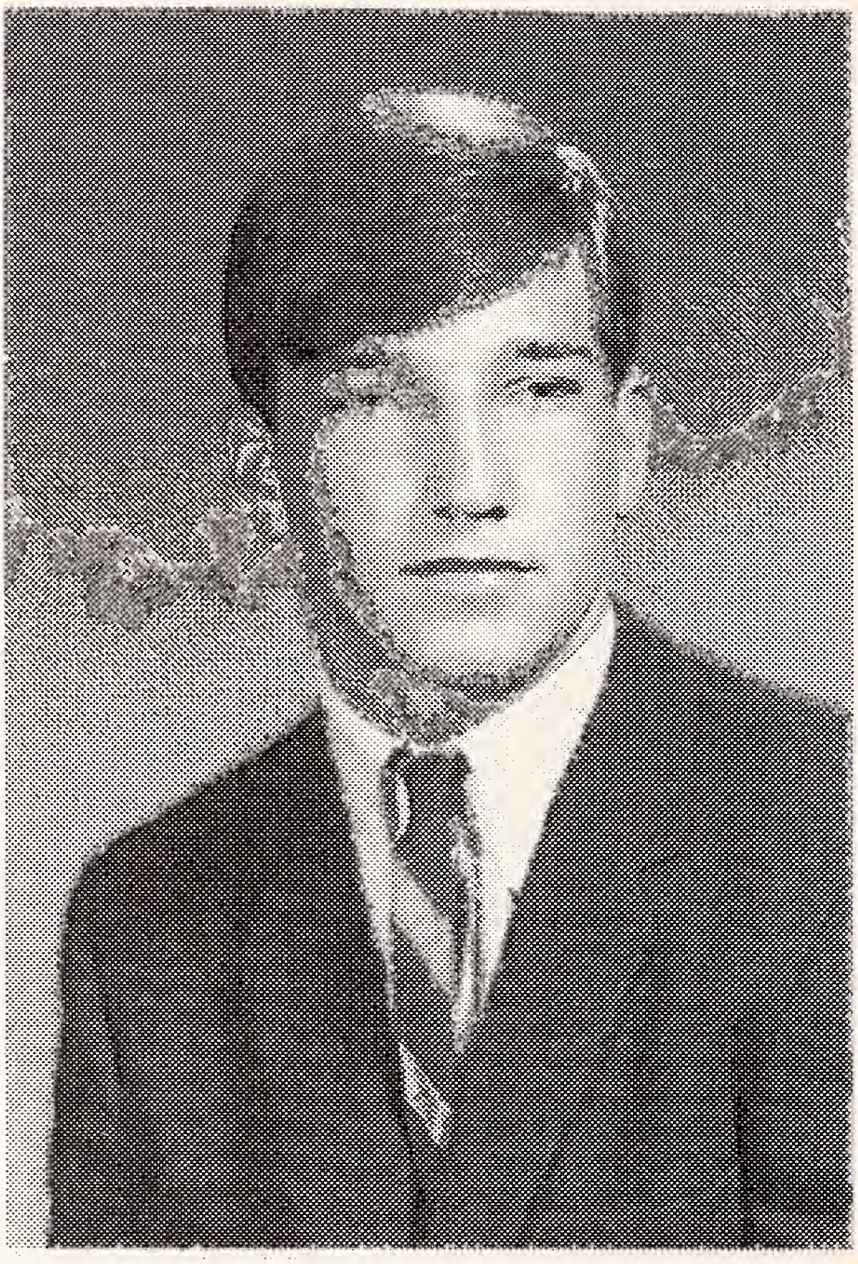
Russ and Betty had two children. Their daughter **Judith Wolverton8** was born April 10, 1947 in Greenville. Judy married Thomas Van Syckle born in May of 1947 and the son of Howard and Shirley Van Syckle Tom and Judy were married on September 2, 1967.

Tom and Judy have horses and they travel to horse shows with a trailer which has living quarters attached. In a recent exchange of email I asked Judy about her job. She wrote---"I am the secretary at an elementary school. I've worked in this building for 24 years. I

started as teacher assistant when my kids both were in school. When my mother retired as the secretary at Baldwin Hts. I applied for the office job and have been here ever since. Things have changed tremendously over the years and now with all this technology everything changes faster than ever. I hardly get one thing figured out and it is obsolete and we move on to "new and improved". (haven't we all felt that way?)

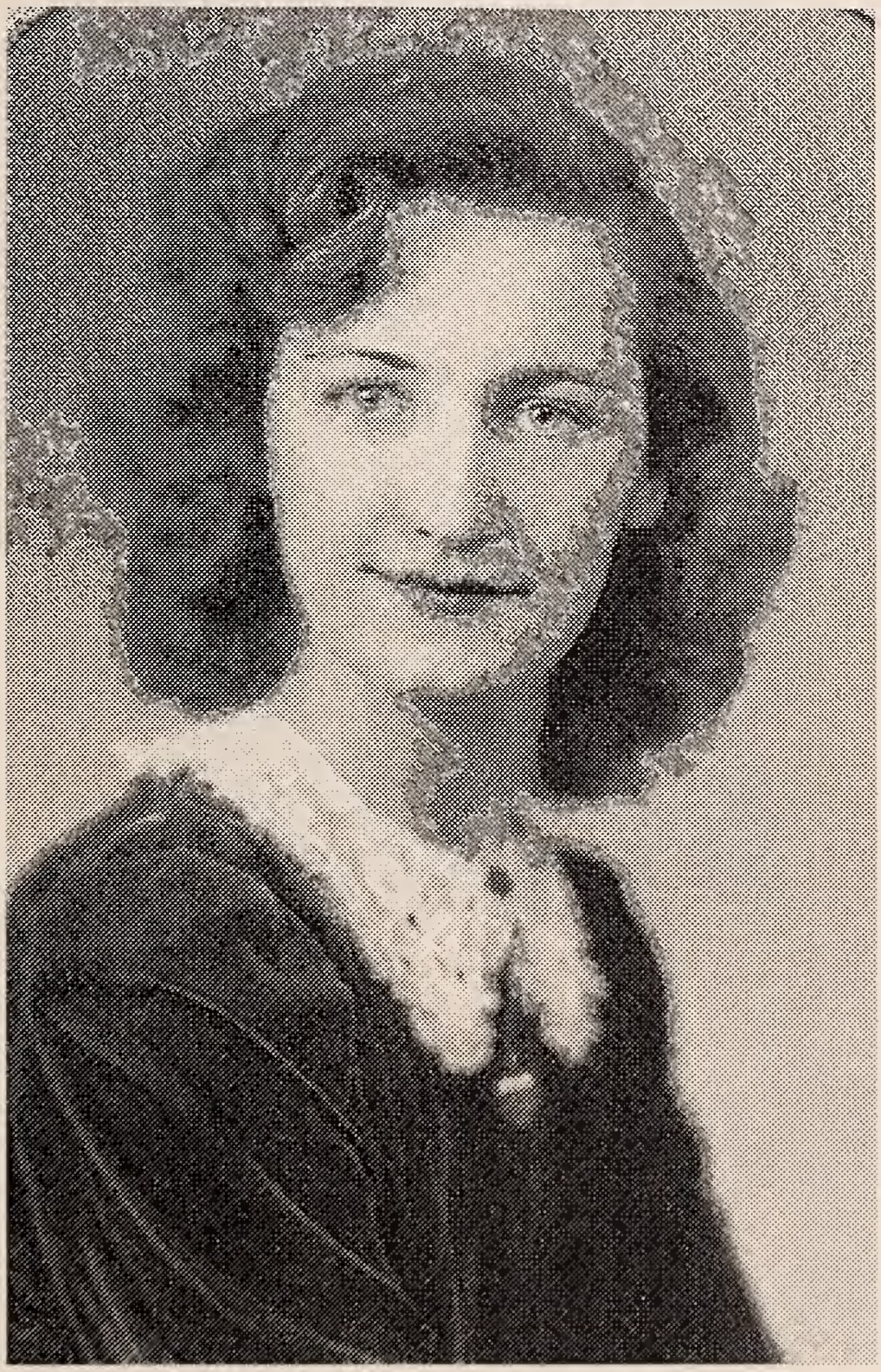
Judy and Tom have two children; The first is **Jennifer Van Syckle9** born July 26, 1969. Jennifer married Jeffrey Myers born July 10, 1968. They have three children; **Karli Ann Myers10** born April 1, 1992, **Kory Thomas Myers10** born December 7, 1993, and **Kaden Jeffrey Myers10** born September 18, 1996.

Judy and Tom's son **Todd Van Syckle9** was born June 10, 1971. Todd married Jamie Cloud. Todd and Jamie have two children; **Lindsay M. Van Syckle10** born October 16 1996 and **Levi H. Van Syckle10** born July 13,2000.



JAMES RUSSELL WOLVERTON

Russ and Betty's son **Jim Wolverton8** was born September 22, 1949. Jim was drafted in 1969 and served until 1971 in the U. S. Army Military Police. He then went to Barber School in Flint, Michigan, the same school his father and uncle Chuck attended. Jim now works at the same barber shop where his father worked and has been a barber since 1971. He married Sue Hansen. They had two children. **Kimberly Wolverton9** born October 24, 1971 and **Marc Wolverton9** born October 25, 1974. Kimberly married Jim Douglas. They have two children: **Sieara Douglas10** born January 23, 1992 and **Austin Douglas10** born August 25, 1974. Jim married second Linda Tucker. Linda has been a bank employee since 1972. They live at Torch Lake, Michigan.



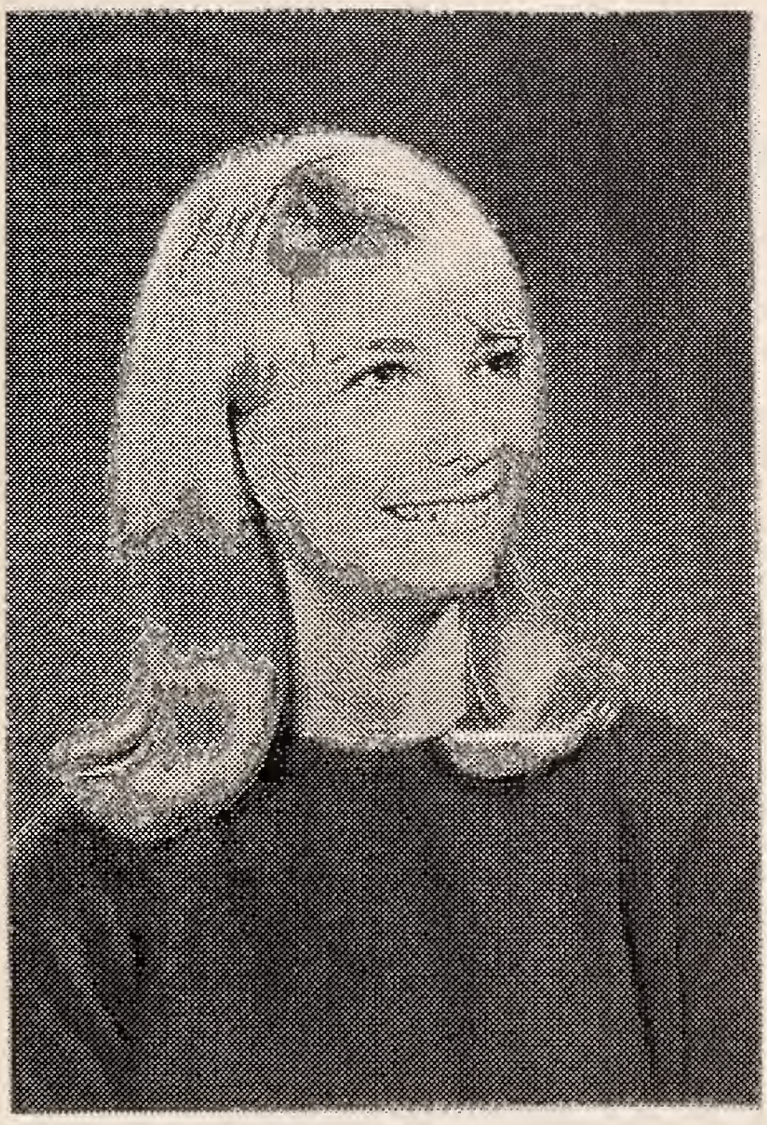
GERALDINE WOLVERTON

Geraldine Wolverton7 was born September 25, 1924. She is the youngest of Mildred and Fay's children and their only daughter. Geraldine was 13 years old when her father died. I remember Uncle Fay's funeral even though I was only 10 years old. He was laid out in his casket in the living room of their home and the

shades were drawn so it seemed quite dark. He may have been the first dead person I had ever seen. I remember a lot of people there and the smell of coffee. Geraldine and I sat on the front porch and talked. After the funeral Geraldine came home to our house in North Muskegon for a couple weeks.

Geraldine was a hair dresser. She married Richard Sutphen August 30, 1947 in the Congregational Church and they lived in Belding, Michigan. Dick was born in Belding March 13, 1923, and he worked for Perkins Dry Cleaners.

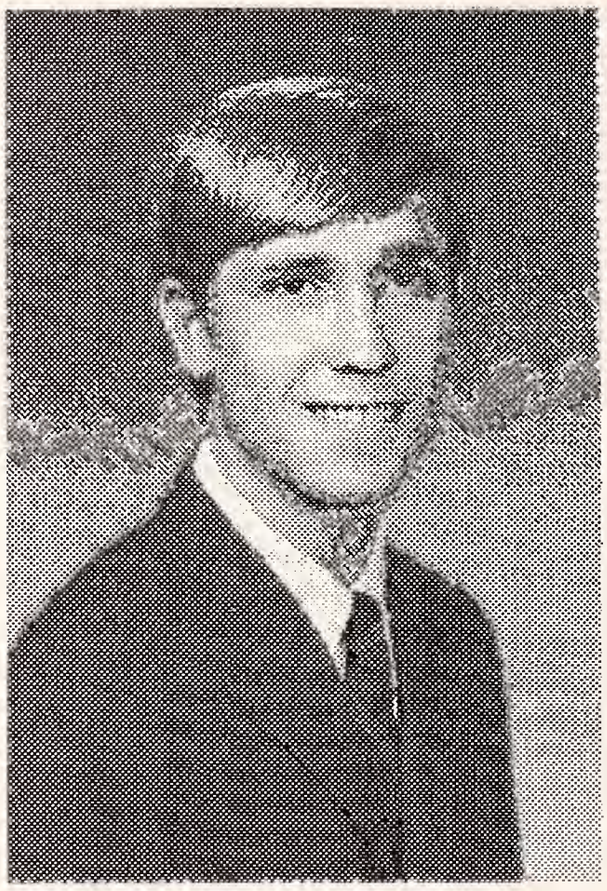
Geraldine and Dick had two children. **Cynthia Lee Sutphen8** born June 19, 1948 in Greenville. Cindy was tall and pretty and after graduation she went to modeling school. She later worked for a radio station in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is now manager for a j



CINDY SUTPHEN

Richard Eddie Sutphen8 born December 19, 1951 in Greenville. Eddie married Geneese Marie Gorski born August 24, 1962 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They were married at St. Adalberts Catholic Church. Eddie attended Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan and has been working as a specialist for the Meijer Company.

Eddie and Geneese have three children: **Allison Marie9** born June 28, 1978, **Janson Edward Sutphen9** born March 15, 1980 and **Melissa Marie Sutphen9** born August 14, 1991. All born in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



RICHARD EDDIE SUTPHEN

Mildred married Walter Arntz and they retired in Florida. Walter preceded her in death. Mildred Edith Wolverton died October 16, 1991 in Greenville, Michigan.

CHAPTER TWELVE

PHILIP & WILMA WOODHOUSE

MARRIED JUNE 15, 1926
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

VIRGINIA ARLENE - 1927 (Chapter 16)
CORAL DORENE - 1931 (Chapter 13)
JANET SUE - 1938 (Chapter 14)
LINDA LEE - 1941 (Chapter 15)

PHILIP ELTON WOODHOUSE 1903-1999
WILMA CLARE HATHAWAY 1907 -

PHILIP ELTON WOODHOUSE

Philip Elton Woodhouse6 (Howards5, Horace4, Leonard3, Henry2, William1) was born August 27, 1903 in Mears, Oceana Co., Michigan. He didn't have a copy of his birth certificate until he applied for Social Security. When he then ordered his birth certificate it had a different birth date than he had been celebrating all his life. He asked his mother about this and her reply was "I ought to know when you were born, you were born August 27, 1903". She went on to explain that when they took the census in those days, going from farm to farm, they might not find anyone at home and rather than come back, they just asked at the next farm house, "any new babies in the Woodhouse family?" The answer might be something like, yes but not sure of the date, about September I think.....and so, depending on the discussion, that is what went on the birth certificate.

It wasn't until many years later, when Dad was about 92 years old, that I learned the story about the day he was born.

The Day Philip Was Born

One Sunday afternoon we took a drive on back roads in Oceana County. I was already really into our family history by then and never went near my parents without a yellow tablet. This particular afternoon as we were driving on a dirt road a particular spot reminded Dad of a story he had heard many times. The day he was born. It went like this.....on a hot day in August when Grandma and the girls were about two miles from home, Grandma went into labor while picking berries on a bluff near Lake Michigan. She was still in her seventh month. She had to ride back to the farm house, near Silver Lake in a horse drawn wagon. Dr. Nickleson delivered Dad and he weighed only about three and half pounds. His incubator was a shoe box lined with cotton batting placed on a shelf behind the kitchen range.

From those very uncertain beginnings he thrived, and he grew to over six feet tall and lived to just 4 months short of his 96th birthday.

The farm house where the family lived when Philip was born was near Silver Lake and Grandpa Howard Woodhouse was working for the George Hawley Nurseries.

THE FARM HOUSE NEAR SILVER LAKE

They were living in this house when Dad saw the first automobile he or anyone in their family had ever seen. He said: Two "big shots" wearing dusters and goggles, drove up the two rut road by the house. The now vintage automobile came putting up the long hill, steam boiling out the radiator. They found there was a hole in the radiator and stopped to ask for something to plug the leak and water to refill it. The girls, Helen and Mildred, each had a doll that was stuffed with bran. Grandpa took the girls dolls and cut them open to give the men the bran to stop the leak. The girls were heartbroken and cried hard. Grandpa must have felt quite intimidated by the men. It made a big impression on my Dad because he still remembered the occasion at age 89.

PHILIP ON THE FARM

The family moved to Hart, Michigan when Philip was about four years old and this is where he began Kindergarten. It was also here that he saw his first electric light. It was a single bulb hanging from a long cord in the middle of the high living room ceiling in his grandparents home. Everyone stood around in a circle looking up at the light bulb and someone pulled a long cord and the light came on.

The family lived in Hart for a short time and then they moved to Muskegon and Grandpa got a job there and they eventually bought the house on John Street.

I asked Dad if he could remember the first airplane he ever saw. He said when he was a boy his Dad and he walked from their home to Mona Lake because Grandpa had heard a man was going to take off from the ball field there. A fellow was there with a small plane and he took off from the ball field and circled around a couple times then landed but he couldn't stop and plowed into the bleachers at the end of the field. Grandpa was working at "the Brunswick" at that time for 22 cents an hour, he sai

PHILIP WOODHOUSE IN KNICKERS

The Howard Woodhouse family were Baptists and the children were active in the youth programs of the church. They dressed in their best for these occasions.

One of our Sunday drives in Oceana County we stopped in Mears at the Mears Museum and Dad enjoyed the lighthouse display there. On the way home he told about a time when he was in his teens, and he and Grandpa walked to the Coast Guard Station to watch a practice demonstration of "off shore shipwreck rescue". He said a cannon with large wheels on either side was rushed down the beach to a "ship wreck site" where the cannon shot a long rope out to the ship. A piece of metal on the end of the rope caught on the

ship and anchored there. Passengers were brought one by one to shore in a breeches buoy, a sling like seat.

Philip and his brother Gerald hunted together a lot and they walked everywhere in their younger days. They knew the Muskegon and North Muskegon areas well. Dad told about going duck hunting when he was about 17 years old. He was by himself. He had three mallard hens in a basket, and a drake on the bow of his boat as live decoys. (no longer legal) The drake sat on the bow with no indication that he would move for as long as the boat was moving but when Dad stopped the boat near shore the drake decided to go for a swim . Dad reached for him and tipped the boat over. The water was very cold and he, of course got very wet. He walked from Johnson's Point in North Muskegon up to his brother Gerald's house to dry his clothes before walking back home to John Street near Hackley Hospital in Muskegon.

Philip was also an avid fisherman. Some of my earliest memories are centered around camping on a trout stream in some farmers back pasture and Dad would fly fish. When I was about 12 he taught me to tie trout flies with him and I tried fly fishing but my line was in the bushes more than in the water as I recall.

A GOOD DAY

Philip went to the Nelson School up to the fourth grade then to the McGraff School through the eighth grade. He quit school at age 16 after the eighth grade as was a common practice in those days, and then he took a six month machine shop training class. After the class he started his three years apprenticeship at the Continental Motors tool room. He ran a "Pratt and Whitney jig board" during that time. He got enough experience to run a lathe. He worked for Continental Motors off and on over the years and "made high speed cutters out of blue chip high speed steel". He later became a pattern maker and tool and die maker. When work "was slim" at one time when I was a little girl, he found a job in Grand Rapids for a short while until things "opened up" in Muskegon again.

Early in the 30's during the depression he taught a machine shop class at the Hackley High School evenings for Adult Education (F.E.R.A.) class for six months. He taught two classes to read micrometers and earned $17 a week.
He built his own lathe to use at home. He later donated that lathe to the North Muskegon High School shop class room.

One day Dad and my husband Ray and I got started talking about radio verses television. I remember our family sitting around the radio at home listing to "The Shadow Knows" and Mother remembered "Amos and Andy" and "George and Gracie Allen". Dad told about building their first radio while he was working at the American Coil Springs company as a tool and die maker. He bought the parts for the Browning and Drake radio at Kresges Dime Store in Muskegon and built it himself. His brother Jerry was building radios and he learned from him what he needed and how to go about building it.

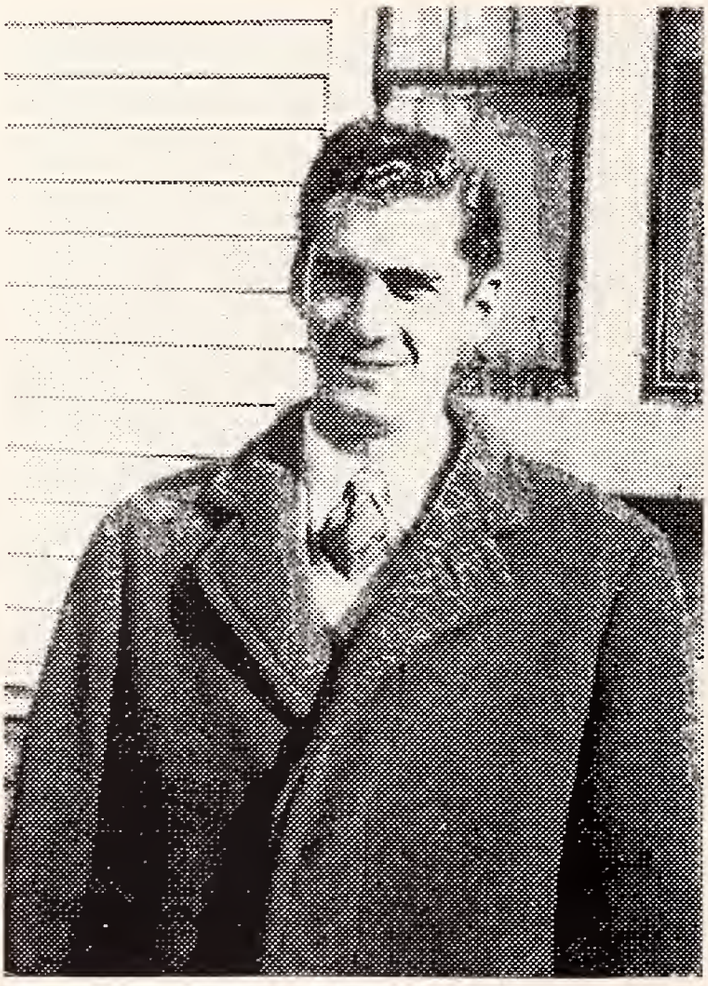
When Phil Woodhouse was about 22 years old, he went to a dance at the pavilion at Pere Marquette Park on Lake Michigan on the South side of the Muskegon Lake Channel going from Lake Michigan into Muskegon Lake. It was at a dance at Pere Marquette Park that he met my mother in 1925.

Wilma Clare Hathaway

Wilma Hathaway was born January 1, 1907 in Chicago, Illinois. The daughter of Lynn Alfred Hathaway and Ruby Clare Grannis and the third of their four children. When Wilma was about four years old

her family moved from Chicago to Newaygo County, Michigan where her grandparents, Charles and Bina Grannis were living on a farm in Goodwill Township.

The daughters of Lynn and Ruby Hathaway were **Bernice Belle Hathaway** born October 19, 1902; **Wilma Clare Hathaway** born 1907; and **Eleanor Mearle Hathaway** born July 20, 1909. Their brother, **Eugene Ray Hathaway** came along November 6, 1922.
Grandma and Grandpa Hathaway and Uncle Eugene moved to Fremont about 1930 after all the girls had left home. Gene graduated from Fremont High School. He was a talented musician and played the alto sax and the clarinet very well. He earned a scholarship for a summer at Interlocken Music Academy at Interlochen, Michigan. He later received a full scholarship to Michigan State College and played in the marching band. When W.W.II began, regrettably, he had to drop out and help grandpa on the farm.



EUGENE RAY HATHAWAY

WILMA HATHAWAY AGE 4 AND BERNICE HATHAWAY AGE 8
GROWING UP IN BIG PRAIRIE, NEWAYGO COUNTY

The Hathaway family farm was a long way from the closest town, White Cloud. Many things were not available there and were ordered from the Sears Roebuck catalog, including shoes. Mother said they each got a new pair of shoes in time for school in the fall and shoes then were stiff and sizes unreliable so Grandma would wear them around the house first to break them in for her daughters. Grandma had small feet but she still must have been very uncomfortable while doing this.

To save their shoes, they would sometimes carry them until they were almost to the school house, then sit on a log and put them back on. Sometimes when it rained on the way to school and they got wet they would sit around the pot bellied stove in the school house until their clothes were dry.

Wilma and her sisters Bernice and Eleanor went to two one room schools in Goodwill Township, Newaygo County. The area is now called Big Prairie. They went first to the Barton School and then to the Dudgeon School. They walked on a path through a wooded area to school and there were black bears in those woods, and they always expected to see one, but they never did see one.

After they graduated from the one room school in the eighth grade, Wilma and her friend Thelma Slade stayed with Thelma's Aunt Nora Mast in White Cloud and the two girls continued on through the tenth grade.

The early lives of the three girls seems like something between "Little House on the Prairie" and "Little Women". The girls entertained themselves by making up their own plays and they would put up a blanket for a curtain and invite their parents upstairs to watch their performance.

Wilma remembers a pet pig. She would lie down in the back yard and rest her head on the pig. She was an avid reader and when it was her turn to churn the butter she could operate the dasher of the churn with one hand and hold a book and read with the other.

THE BEE TREE

My mother, Wilma, told this story about hunting for a bee tree with her father, Lynn Hathaway when she was a small girl on the farm in Newaygo County, Michigan.

She remembered walking for great distances into the woods near the family farm in Big Prairie. Grandpa made a device to attract a bee that would guide them to a honey tree. It was a wooden stake with a shallow box on top, (about 6 inches square and 1 inch high). He filled the box with some old honey comb, if they had any, and also some anise (liquid) on it.

He would set the stake in the ground on the edge of the woods. Then, with a compass in hand, Grandpa would watch, and when a bee came to the box, they would see what direction it took as it flew into the woods. Grandfather, walking very fast, carrying a cross cut saw, would watch his compass and follow the bees path in a straight line, (hence the term "bee line").

Little Wilma hurried along behind, as fast as her little legs would carry her. She remembered it seemed like a long, long walk, but she was so happy to be included in such an important task the she didn't complain much.

When they found the bee tree, Grandpa, wearing a net over his hat, would saw the tree down. It was always a big hollow tree. They would then walk the long distance back to the farm house to get Grandma. Then, carrying buckets and large pans they would set out to find the bee tree again.

After locating the tree again Grandma and Grandpa, wearing long sleeves and big hats with nets, would scoop the honey into the containers. Even with the nets over them they got stung now and then.

Back at the farm house, the usually barefoot children had to be very careful not to step on the still live bees that came back in the honey. Mother remembers they were everywhere. She also remembers that the honey required straining, believed that dark honey was from older bees.

They could get as much as 20 or 30 quarts of honey from one tree.

Aunt Eleanor told me that the farm house was about six or seven miles from White Cloud which would be the nearest town. Grandma would hitch the horse and buggy and drive into White Cloud for food staples now and then. When she made this trip one the girls got to go with her. Eleanor told me that it was special to be chosen and grandma would always buy a box of crackers and a chunk of cheese and they would eat that on the way home. Both Wilma and Eleanor agreed that this was a very special treat.

The three girls went to Muskegon to work. They got jobs at the Amazon Knitting Mills.

WILMA, BERNICE AND ELEANOR "THE FLAPPERS"

WILMA AND PHIL MET AT A DANCE

Wilma and her friend Clara Dault used to take the trolley out to Pere Marquette Park on Lake Michigan where there were dances on Saturday night in the summer. It was here that Wilma and Phil met. They were married a year later. They were both good dancers and enjoyed dancing together the rest of their lives.

WILMA HATHAWAY and PHILIP WOODHOUSE
MARRIED JUNE 15, 1926

Phil and Wilma began their married life in a house on Jirock Street in Muskegon. This is where the first of their four daughters was born. **Virginia Arlene Woodhouse7** born May 23, 1927 (myself). Second was **Coral Dorene Woodhouse7** born November 17, 1931, then **Janet Sue Woodhouse7** born March 29, 1938, and **Linda Lee Woodhouse7** born December 26, 1941. My sisters were all born when we were living in the house that Dad built at 613 Oscar Avenue, North Muskegon, Michigan.

WILMA CLARE HATHAWAY WOODHOUSE
WILMA C. WOODHOUSE

My memories of my mother when I was growing up was that she was shy in the early years and didn't like to go to PTA meetings and when she did she sat in the back and left before anyone else. She always wanted to better herself and for a period of time she had a word list taped to the kitchen cabinet door. She set a goal for herself to learn a new word every day.

We didn't have a phone in our house until after I left home in 1945, partly because of the expense and partly because mother was shy. She overcame her shyness gradually and became very sociable.

Wilma was always serious about being a good homemaker. She sewed beautifully and made all our clothes and her own. She taught each of her four daughters to sew. I grew up tall and skinny, and mother always saw to it that I had clothes that fit and were flattering. She really kept that old White sewing machine humming in August and September. We each had new school clothes to start school in the fall. We would take the bus "over town" to look at pattern books and select fabric and then she would begin. She could whip up a new dress for a date or a prom, and if I told her a style that I saw and liked she would do her best to duplicate it. We were always proud of our clothes that mother made for us.

Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning was a serious annual event. I remember as a child that on a bright spring day we would begin, room by room. We carried bed springs and mattress's out into the back yard and put them on saw horses and chair seats arranged like saw horses. Being the eldest daughter I got in on most of this. Bed springs were open metal coils then and they were hosed off and left to dry The mattresses were carried outside to freshen in the sunshine.

Any rugs in the house that were not fastened down, including room sized rugs, were rolled up and mother and I would carry them out and hang them over a line and beat the dust and dirt out of them. This was my job but when my arm got tired mother would take over. The rug beater had a wooden handle and shaped like a double figure 8 of a heavy metal wire.

My little five foot six inch mother could hang wall paper all by herself and even do long strips on the ceiling by herself. We would come home from school and a room would be newly wall papered. Every room in the house had wall paper on it and every spring we cleaned the wall paper with something that came in a can with a pry off lid and when it was first opened it had a naphtha like odor. It had a texture that reminds me now of the children's Play Dough. It was either pink or green and the consistency of Play Dough. You took a big chunk of it and kneed it until it was pliable and then wipe it over the surface of the wall paper and it would gather the winters grime and turn black, It had to be turned and kneaded constantly. It was quite a chore but you could see the difference as it removed the soot that the coal burning furnace had left during the winter.

All windows were opened to air out the house, every window was washed inside and out and every curtain was washed, starched with Staley's starch and ironed. Except lace curtains which were washed by hand, starched and put carefully on an adjustable wooden frame. Each of the bars that made up the rectangular frame had fine nail points placed about an inch apart as I recall, and after many punctured fingers they were put one frame on top of another to dry. When dry the curtains were rehung on curtain rods.

In the kitchen all the woodwork was washed and every dish was taken out of the cupboards and clean paper was placed on each shelf. Every dish was washed and dried and placed back on the clean shelves.

On any ordinary day our home was always clean and polished! If Wilma ever ran out of things to do she cleaned cupboards and closets.

We sang together

When ever our whole family went on a long drive to Fremont to visit my Grandma and Grandpa Hathaway or to Ravenna to visit Aunt Helen, we would sing together. Mother could sing alto and provide the harmony.

Coral and I learned to harmonize and always sang while washing and drying the dinner dishes at night. As young adults we were

sometimes asked to sing for our church groups social gatherings. These are fond memories.

Wilma sang lullabies to my sisters, and probably me, when she rocked them to sleep. Being the eldest daughter I helped with this sometimes. I learned the lullabies and sang them to my own babies after I married Jack Smith and lived in our farm house in Fremont.

I remember a couple little songs that were great for rocking and that I have never heard anywhere else. I can't tell you the tune however. The first goes like this:

Blanket Bay

"All aboard for blanket bay.....won't return 'till the break of day.
Wrap her up in her little white sheet.....'till you can't see her little pink feet.
Then you tuck her into her trundle bed.....Ship ahoy little sleepy head.
Bless mama and papa and sail away, All aboard for blanket bay."
(sounds like it could have originated in New England)

A Christmas Lullaby

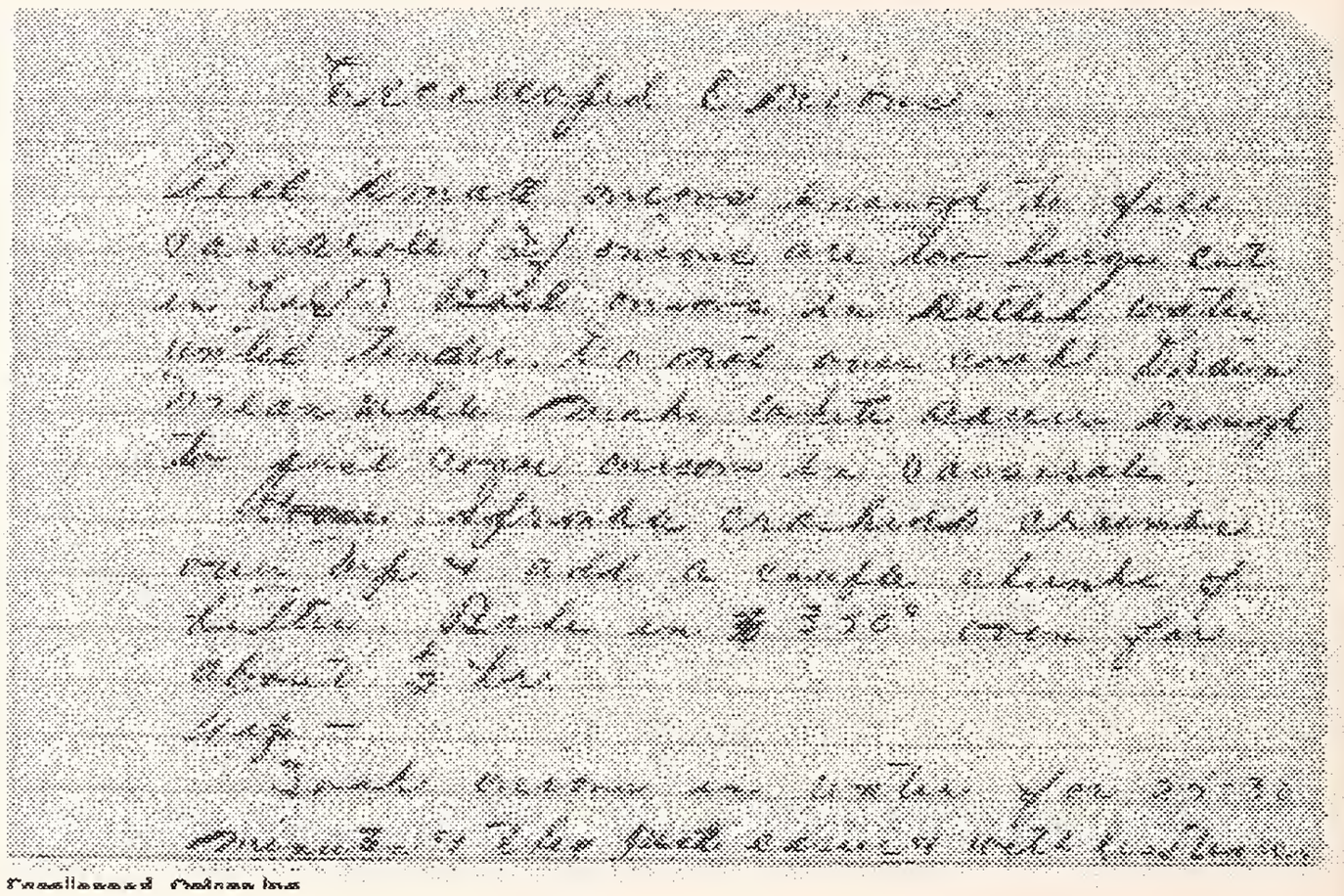
"Hang up the baby's stocking, be sure you don't forget, for our darling little baby, has never seen Christmas yet."
(Sung to the tune of Carnival of Venice and we usually substituted the baby's name for the word baby)

Lemon Meringue Pie

Speaking of Christmas, Wilma is known for several of special dishes. One is her lemon meringue pie and her secret was extra lemon juice and grated lemon rind added. The meringue was always piled high on the pie and browned just a little. She said "this takes careful watching".

Creamed Onions

Wilma's sons-in-law and her grandsons always asked her to make this dish as well as her lemon meringue pie. Some of her grand daughters have asked for the recipe and Cindy wrote to say that she had served it for her own Thanksgiving Dinner. This is in Wilma's own handwriting.



Another recipe that has been handed down in Wilma's family is Christmas Pudding Candy. We think it probably came from her grandmother Grannis since Bina and Charles Grannis had a candy store in Chicago before they came to Goodwill township, Newaygo County, Michigan to farm. We always made Christmas Pudding Candy on Thanksgiving weekend so it could mellow in time for the holidays.

Christmas Pudding Candy

1lb. Each dried figs (or apricots), raisins dates, 1lb of coconut. 1 or 2 cups of nutmeats. Grind in food grinder.

Mix in a medium size pan, over medium heat; 3 cups sugar, and 1 cup light cream,

cook to soft ball stage. Don't stir or will get grainy. Watch that it doesn't scorch.
Add 1 heaping T. Butter & 1 tsp. Vanilla.

COOL Then beat until creamy. Mix well with ground dried fruit, and shape into "log shapes" wrapped in a very slightly damp towel to keep moist. Cut in pieces to serve for the holidays.

Note: I substitute dried apricots for the figs because my family prefers them.

PHILIP WOODHOUSE and WILMA HATHAWAY MARRIED in the Baptist Church parsonage on the corner of First and Clay streets. The same church were Dad was baptized as a child. His brother Gerald was his best man and mothers best friend, Clara Dault was her maid of honor. Mother wore a pink dress and had a gardenia corsage. There was a dinner for both families after the wedding at Grandma and Grandpa Woodhouse's home on Ruddiman Drive in North Muskegon.

PHILIP ELTON WOODHOUSE

About 1931 or 1932 Dad bought a lot in the woods at what is now 613 Oscar Avenue, North Muskegon, Michigan. He bought it from Conrad Nelson for $350 with $5.00 down. He, with some help from his Dad, Howard, built a basic, one bedroom house on the back of the lot.

Later, as the family grew, the house was moved to the front of the lot and another bedroom and a back entry was added. It was moved onto a basement. The living room was enlarged too.

HOME OF PHIL & WILMA WOODHOUSE IN NORTH MUSKEGON

My Dad believed in paying for it as they could afford the building materials. The indoor bathroom was not furnished yet when Dad decided to learn mechanical drawing by correspondence. He built a drawing board and set it up in the "bathroom" locked himself in and studied. We girls had to be very quiet! I remember his excitement when the mailing tube would be returned in the mail with his graded work in it.

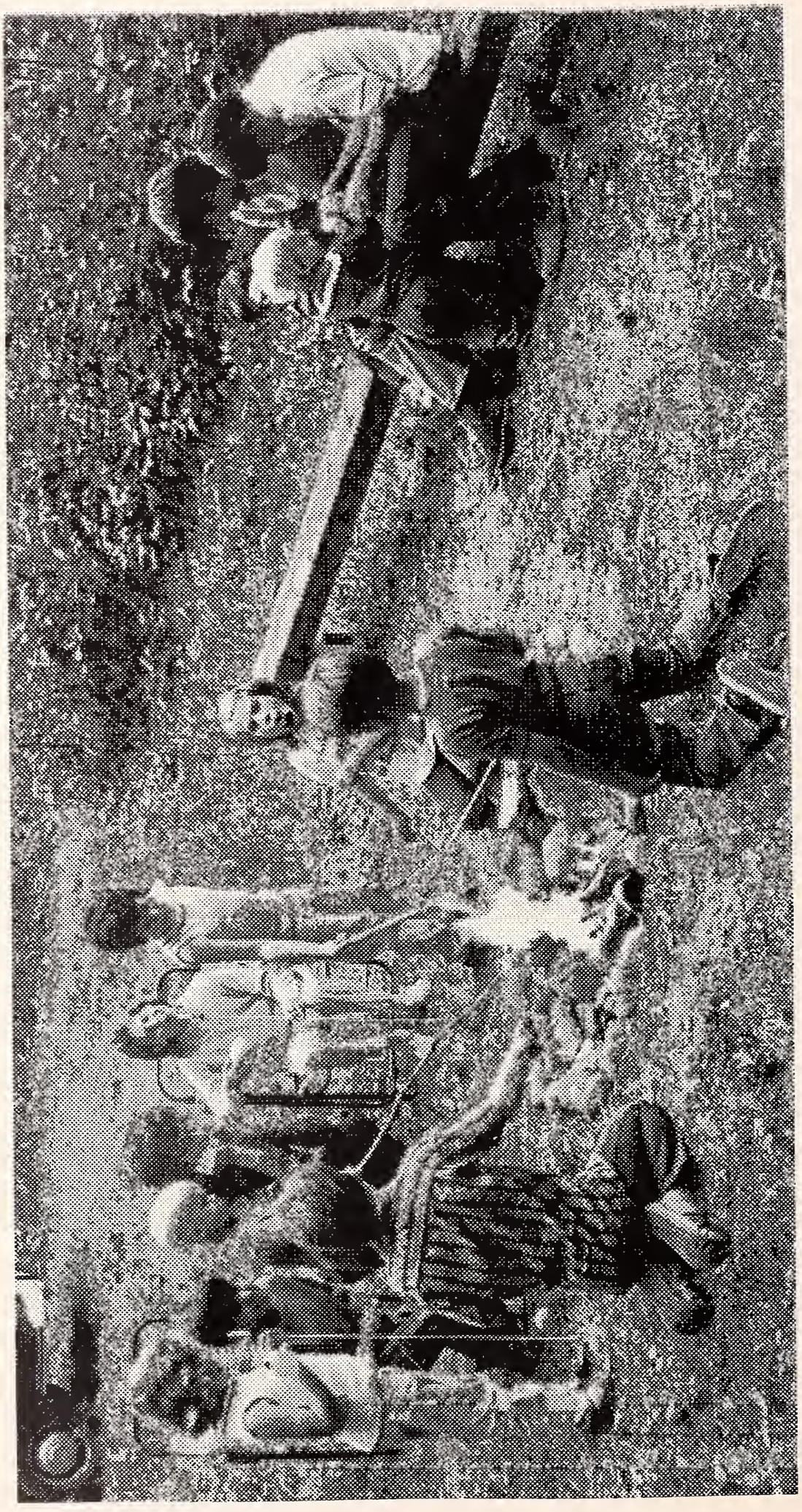
Dad went on to a job with the Dresser Company in Muskegon as a tool designer. After Dad retired I happened to meet a younger man who had worked with him. He told me that when ever there was a problem Dad could design a tool to do the job. A nice tribute to his expertise and ingenuity.

When three of their four daughters married and left home and the older grandchildren were starting to reach their teens, Dad bought a boat and a motor large enough to pull water skis. He priced water skis in the sporting goods stores and decided to make his own. Make them he did and they worked just fine. He learned to water ski but preferred to drive the boat and we all took a try at it. My sister Linda, Janet's husband Stan, Corals husband Don, my husband Jack and my sons Michael and Jack all got really good at it, so Dad bought a larger motor and he pulled two at a time. We went to Jim and Betty Presses home on West Lake, Michigan most Sunday afternoons and either skied or watched the fun. My first try when I got up finally half way around the lake was rewarded by my sisters and my mother all standing in line with kiss on each cheek and the rusty bottom of a tin can laid ceremoniously on the front of my life jacket. Janet never did get up on her first try and she labeled it the longest douche in history.

Our family also camped often. When we girls got married and had families of our own we sometimes camped with four generations. Mother and Dad had their little travel trailer. The rest of us used tents until my husband Jack died and then I bought a small travel trailer and camped in that.

One year we camped at Pines Point near the corners of Oceana, Muskegon, and Newaygo counties meet. It is on the White River. There is a little bend in the river and it is shallow there. The whole family would float around in inner tubes. It took about 20 minutes. We could get out, walk across a short span of land and put in, and float around again. Of course the adults gave out before the kids did. I took my 3 year old grandson, Bob Woolley lying in front of an air mattress and I straddled the back. We floated around so many times we were all like prunes. The kids loved it!

Around the campfire toasting marshmallows are some of Phil and Wilmas grandchildren and two great grandsons. Janet is supervising. (see photo next page, taken about 1971)



Phil made beautiful smaller things with wood. Among other projects he made all his grandsons and sons in law cribbage boards with inlaid patterns and his daughters and grand daughters jewelry boxes also with inlaid work. Wonderful keepsakes.

Wilma did beautiful embroidery and we all have samples of that. About 1991 mother and dad decided not to drive to Florida for the winter months as they had been doing for 24 years. I asked mother to embroider 25 quilt blocks on which I had drawn Michigan Wildflowers. I thought this would be a nice winter project for the long winter ahead but she finished each one about as fast as I could draw the design on them. I put them together and am pleased to have a quilt that we worked on together.

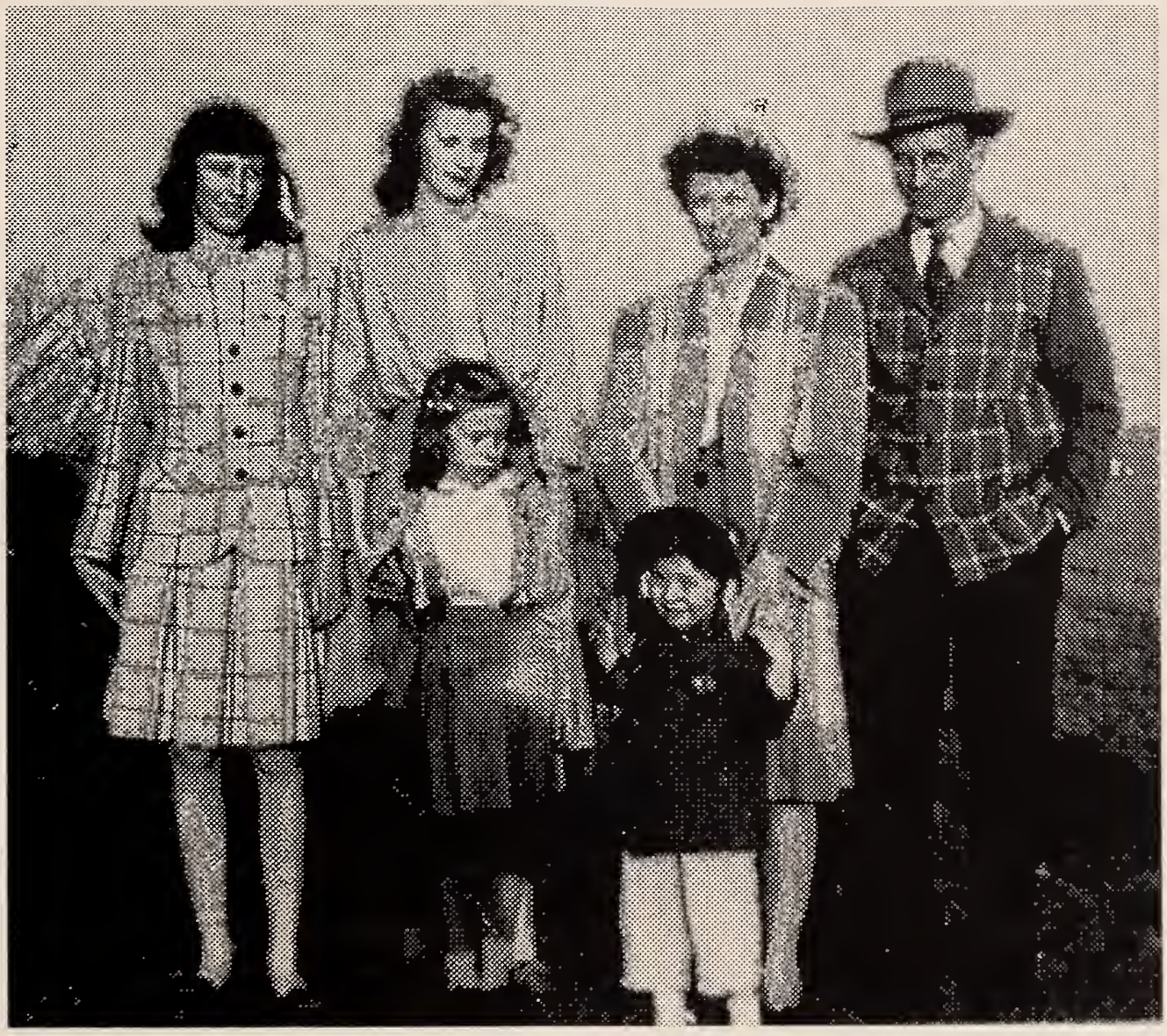
MICHIGAN WILDFLOWER QUILT BY WILMA AND ARLENE 1995

Phil and Wilma did many things together. He called her "Will" or "Willie". They were both very good photographers and charter members of was then called the Muskegon Color Camera Club and is now called The Westshore Camera Club. They won many ribbons and trophies over the years.

They had beautiful flowers in their yard. One time Wilma wanted to expand the garden and Phil insisted they had all the flower beds they could take care of. Wilma disagreed and asked "Phil are we having a border dispute?" Her great sense of humor prevails.

They were also both award winning shuffle board players, in retirement, in Muskegon and in Clearwater, Florida. They won many awards and trophies playing as a couple and as individual competitors. They were members of a Florida camera club too and were often called upon to be judges for competitions.

Imagine if you will what has transpired since my parents lifetime. Since my father and my mother were born. Dad told about seeing his first light bulb. It hung from a long cord in the middle of the high ceiling in his grand parents living room. They all stood around and watched while a chain was pulled and the light went on. Today, electric lights are common in almost every home. People walked for miles or rode a horse. Sometimes they hitched it to a cutter or wagon. Now horses are for pleasure riding and automobiles are the common mode of transportation. Airplanes take us to far places.



THE WOODHOUSE FAMILY

Coral 13 years, Arlene 17, w/Janet 6, Wilma w/Linda 2, and Philip (about 1944)

Woodhouses keep shuffling along despite their ages

By STEVE GUNN
Chronicle staff writer

Phil Woodhouse, 89, has a message for area senior citizens: Join the Muskegon Shuffleboard Club or find another hobby. The important thing is to stay busy, get out of the house and have fun.

"I've known people who retire and say they're going to spend their time resting," said Woodhouse. "They rest for a few years and then die. You have to get out and go."

Woodhouse and his wife Wilma, 85, are longtime members of the Muskegon Shuffleboard Club. They hit the courts three times a week, refusing to let age slow them down.

"We shuffled for several years in Florida when we wintered there," said Phil Woodhouse. "We didn't even know the Muskegon club was here for a long time. When we discovered it we joined it.

"It's great meeting people and being in a group. It gets us out of the house. It would be even more fun if more old people would come out and play. There are about half as many members as there were when we joined."

> ***"I've known people who retire and say they're going to spend their time resting. They rest for a few years and then die."***
>
> Phil Woodhouse

While the Woodhouses insist they play mainly for fun, they're also pretty good at the game. Competing as a team, they recently finished fourth in the tough Lumbertown Festival Tournament at McGraft Park. They also fared well in both the 1990 and 1991 Michigan State Tournament, which attracts top players from the U.S. and Canada to McGraft.

"They're both very good," said club spokesperson Abbie Smith. "They both just love the game. Wilma has to be one of the top players in our club. Put a stick in her hand and she'll just tear you up. I think I could beat Phil earlier than Wilma."

"Everybody's competitive," admitted Phil Woodhouse. "You play for the fun of it and try to win. But if you don't, oh well."

Both former club officials, the Woodhouses are respected for more than their playing abilities, Smith said.

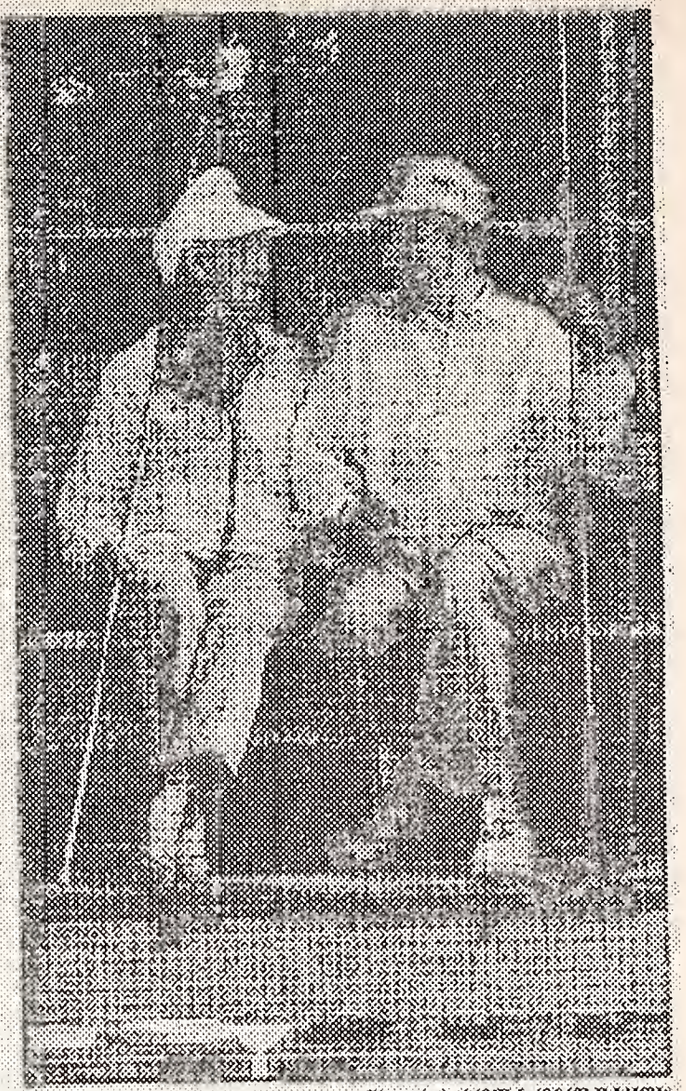
"They're the nicest people you'd ever want to meet," she said. "Not only are they excellent players, but they're without a doubt the most respected, beloved couple in our group."

The Woodhouses met at a dance at Pere Marquette Park about 68 years ago. They were married a year later. They had four daughters and have 13 grandchildren and more great-grandchildren than they can count.

Their first great-great-grandchild is a toddler.

"If we leave any out we'll hear about it," said Wilma Woodhouse as she tried to count all of her offspring's offspring.

Woodhouse retired from Brewer Crane in 1968. Besides shuffleboard, the couple stays busy with nature photography. Phil Woodhouse thinks their long hikes in search of wilderness photos help keep them healthy.



Chronicle photo by KARL BAUMAN

Wilma and Phil Woodhouse get their exercise on the shuffleboard court.

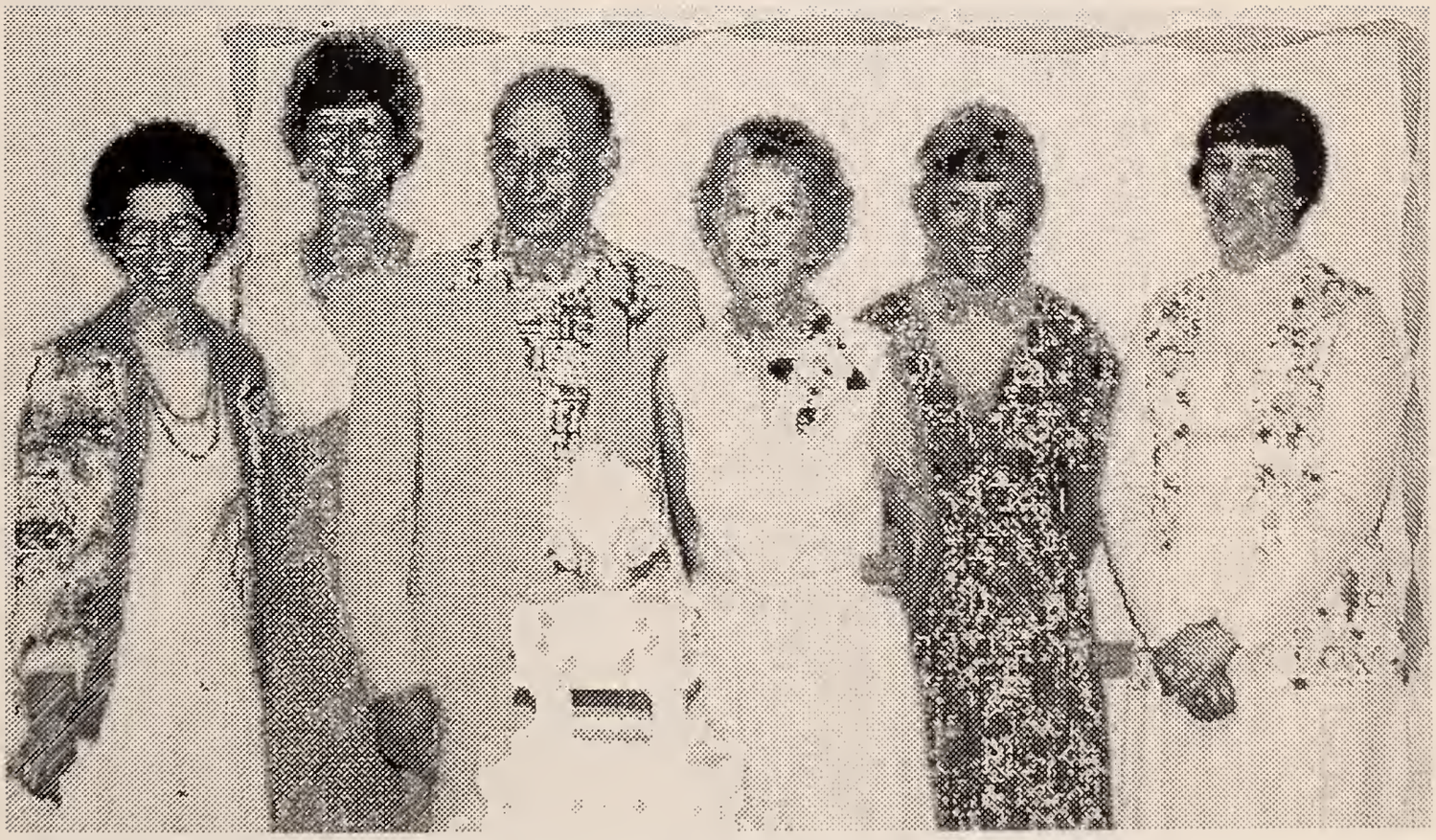
Muskegon Chronicle
18 July 1992

PHIL WOODHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHING A YELLOW LADY SLIPPER

He made the little tripod out of wood for close up photography and made others for my husband Ray and myself and for some friends.

WILMA AND PHIL WOODHOUSE AT HOME

WILMA AGE 91 AND PHIL AGE 95 MARRIED 72 YEARS



PHIL & WILMA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY - JUNE 15, 1976.
JANET GUY, ARLENE SMITH, PHILIP & WILMA,
LINDA KIGGINS & CORAL HANSON

Philip E. Woodhouse died April 14, 1999 in Whitehall, Michigan.

He is buried in the Laketon Cemetery in North Muskegon, Michigan. His funeral at the North Muskegon Methodist Church was a celebration of his life. At almost 96 year old the church was filled with family and friends of all ages. His grandsons Jeff Guy and Jack Smith spoke about their memories of their grandfather. Perhaps the most poignant though was the tributes by his two great grand daughters, Jennifer and Ashley Williams for whom Grandpa was sometimes a father figure to them. Jennifer wrote this to me afterward. "I miss grampa very much. I guess it seems odd to not

be able to see him when ever I want. He was like the father I always wanted, always there for hugs and there to pull me back as well. sometimes at night I think I see him sitting at my vanity. Maybe I'm losing my mind. I'd like to think that maybe he is watching over me though. It's funny the people we choose to admire. Grandpa was just an ordinary man to most. He never invented anything or rescued anyone from a fire. There will never be a monument dedicated to him and for some his name will soon be forgotten. But he loved me with all his heart and I loved him more than life and for me that has always been enough. He will always be alive for me. He was my hero and heros never die.

JENNIFER RAE WILLIAMS BOND

ASHLEY'S TRIBUTE TO HER GREAT GRANDPA, PHILIP WOODHOUSE.
SHE READ IT AT HIS FUNERAL. With lots of love, by Ashley Williams - age 15

Joker, Monkey, Goofball, these names I hear,
from Grampa's mouth to Ashley's ear.

Get out of that - Don't touch - Stay out,
Grampa says as I start to pout.
Ok he says, be careful and in turn
I will teach you all I have learned.

In grampa's yard we sit and talk
In the fluffy grass,
under the little tree.
Just our time, great grampa and me.

Endless hours of that same pose, then flash,
finally, there the camera goes.
The pictures are here and to my dispose,
It looks like I have the Woodhouse nose.

When Grampa moved he was real bummed
but I figured I could cheer him up some.
Second shift staff would come in and say,
Phil, what did you do today?

He would smile with great delight.
My wheelchair travels at the speed of light.
With Jenni and Ashley, I did run,
We had a good day, it was great fun.

I want to remember Grampa this way. But now that he has gone away,
there's one more thing I would like to say.
I hope in Heaven your garden is great
with really pretty flowers and a sun that stays up late.

I loved you Grampa, then and now.
Look in on me often and you will see
that as I grow up there is a lot of you in me.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

HANSON
CORAL & DONOVAN

MARRIED MAY 22, 1954
INDIANA

CHILDREN:

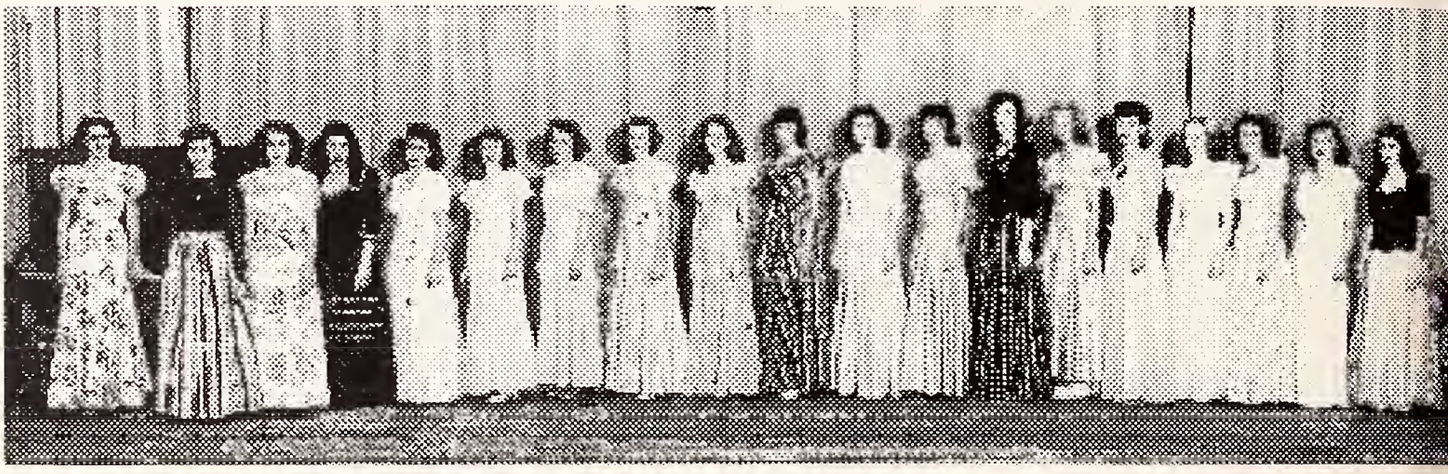
DEBORAH LOUISE - 1955
BRIAN DONOVAN - 1958
PAUL DEAN - 1962
JON ERIC - 1964

CORAL DORENE WOODHOUSE 1931-1987
DONOVAN W. HANSON 1927-

CORAL DORENE WOODHOUSE

Coral Dorene Woodhouse7 was born in Muskegon, Michigan on November 17, 1931. Like each of we four girls, she started kindergarten in the North Muskegon School system. She went through to graduate from North Muskegon High School in 1949. She was born when I was four and half years old. Since I was the oldest I was often responsible for her when we were away from home. The year she started kindergarten my mother told me to take care of her and always see that she got home safely. I would have been about nine then. There was a field trip for the kindergarten and first grade classes to take a train ride from the old depot in Muskegon. I heard about it and told her teacher she couldn't go because I was not going and I had to take care of her. The teacher reluctantly told me that I would have to take her home then, and I did. We walked the 12 blocks home and when my mother figured out what happened she sent me back to school and

she and Coral took the bus to Muskegon and she found the Kindergarten teacher and the class just in time and Coral went on the train ride. The day turned out fine and that night at the dinner table we talked some more about the range of my responsibilities.



NORTH MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL ACAPPELLA CHOIR 1944

Coral and I both sang in the high school acappella Choir when I was a senior and she was a freshman. I am the tallest singer with a black top and plaid skirt. Coral is the fourth to the left of me wearing a plaid taffeta dress. Mother made both dresses for us and they were lovely. We felt pretty in our dresses for this Christmas Concert in December 1944.

After graduation Coral married first Richard McClaren. He went into the Army and was sent to Germany. They were divorced shortly after he returned. Meanwhile she had been working for the Muskegon Police Department in the office. Our sister Janet worked there with her for awhile.

CORAL WOODHOUSE GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL 1949

Donovan Walter Hanson was born December 9, 1927 in Hill City, Minnesota to George A. Hanson and Mavone Dean. Don was in the United States Air Force during W.W.II, January 1946 to November 1948. He was stationed in Tokyo, Japan working in Communications; in Telephones and Telegraph. Don apprenticed for four years to become a Sheet Metal worker. He worked in Muskegon at this trade.

Coral and Don were married May 22, 1954 in Indiana. They bought a home in the Reeths Puffer School area of North Muskegon. They also bought some property in the country near Bitely, Michigan and enjoyed the nature and relaxation there. It was a good place for Don and the boys to hunt also. They all enjoyed cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

Coral and Don and their children have been active in the Sons of

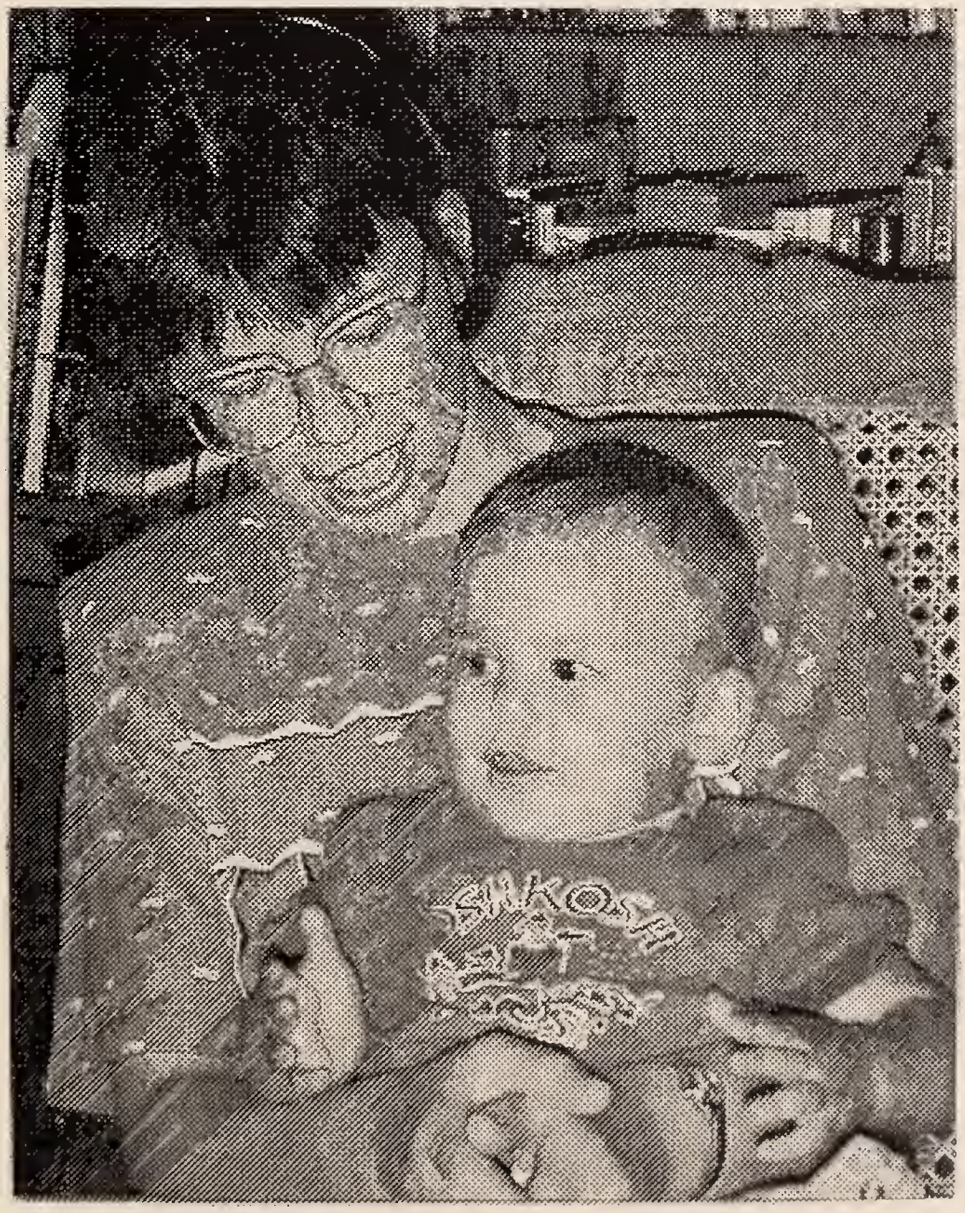
Norway organization. Coral and Don learned and performed the Norwegian folk dances in costume. The family has also been active in the Immanual Lutheran Church in Muskegon.

Coral and Don had four children. **Deborah Louise Hanson8** born January 16, 1955 in Muskegon, Michigan; **Brian Donovan Hanson8** born February 1959 in Muskegon. **Paul Dean Hanson8** born January 7, 1962 and **Jon Eric Hanson8** born January 28, 1964 in Muskegon. All were students at Reeths Puffer Schools.

DEBORAH LOUISE HANSON

Coral managed the office of Dr. Lemmon in Muskegon and Debbie worked with her mother in that office until Coral died and Debbie continued to manage that office until it closed when Dr. Lemmon suddenly passed away.

Like her mother, Debbie learned to sew very well.

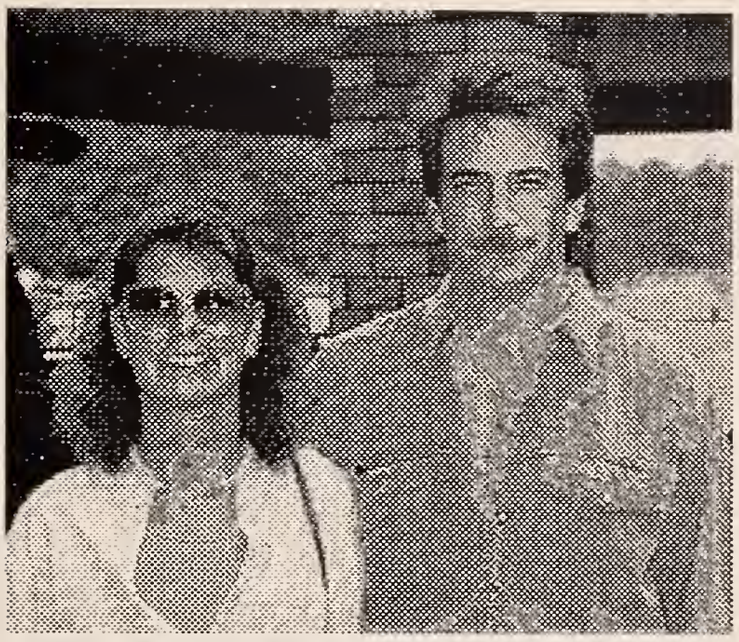


DEBBIE GUNDY AND HER SON JESSE

Jesse Dean Sorensen9 was born May 19, 1993 to Deborah Gundy and Mark Sorensen of Muskegon, Michigan. Mark is trained as an Licensed Practical Nurse.

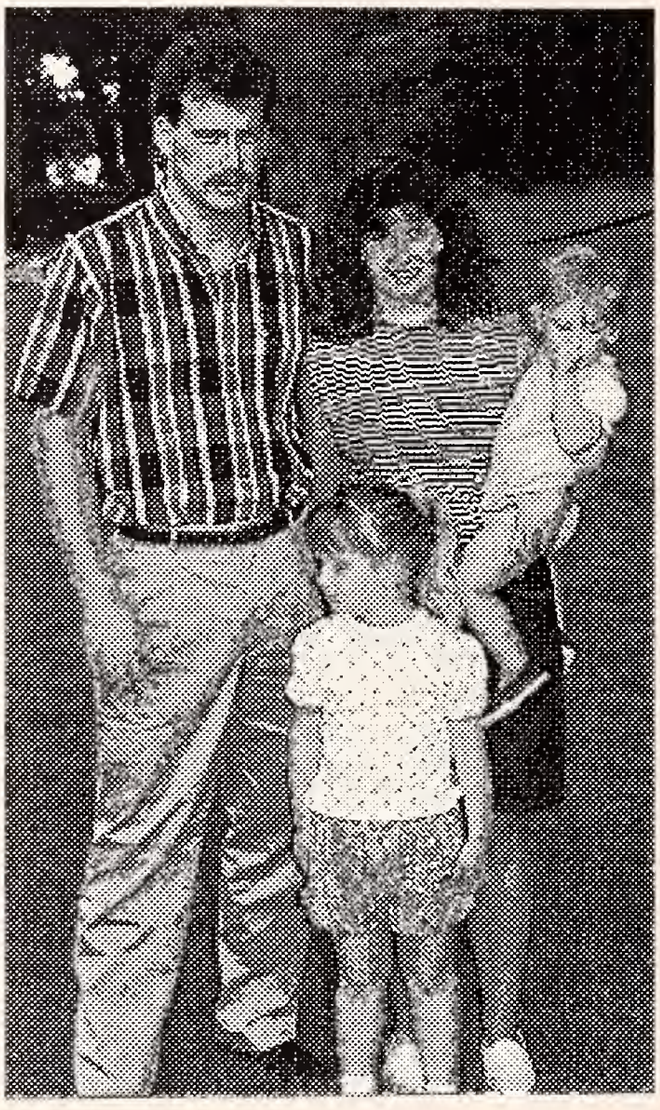
Debbie sold her house in Ravenna, Michigan, that formerly was Aunt Helen's home and bought a new house in Muskegon near her family. She is responsible for the billing for Continu-Care Home Health Services, a division of Gerber Memorial Hospital, in Fremont, Michigan.

BRIAN DONOVAN HANSON



SUSAN WEEMS & BRIAN HANSON

Brian Donovan Hanson8 was born April 19, 1958 in Muskegon, Michigan. Brian is the first son of Coral and Don's three sons. He graduated from Reeths Puffer High School in Muskegon then went to Lake Superior College. Brian married **Susan Weems.** born October 31, 1951. They were married December 15, 1991. Susan brought two sons to their marriage, **Benjamin Tabor** born June 12, 1984 and **Adam Tabor** born February 9, 1988. They live near Whitehall, Michigan. Brian likes to hunt and fish. Susan is a seamstress, Brian is Manufacturing Engineering Manager for Harsco Track Technology Company in Ludington, Michigan.



PAUL, BRENDA holding BRITTNEY, & ERIKA in front

Paul Dean Hanson8 was born January 7, 1962 in Muskegon, Michigan. The second son of Coral and Don Hanson. Paul worked as a Draftsman on the computer for the Sand Mold Company in Newaygo, Michigan.

Paul married **Brenda Joyce Wolters** born August 10, 1960 in Muskegon, Michigan. Paul and Brenda both graduated from Reeths Puffer High School. They were married August 25, 1984 in Brenda is the daughter of Harvey and Beverly Wolters of Muskegon.

Brenda worked first as a Physicians Assistant for Dr. Michael Post in Fremont and went back to school to become a Registered Nurse and works at Hackley Hospital in Muskegon, Michigan.

BRITTNEY AND ERIKA HANSON

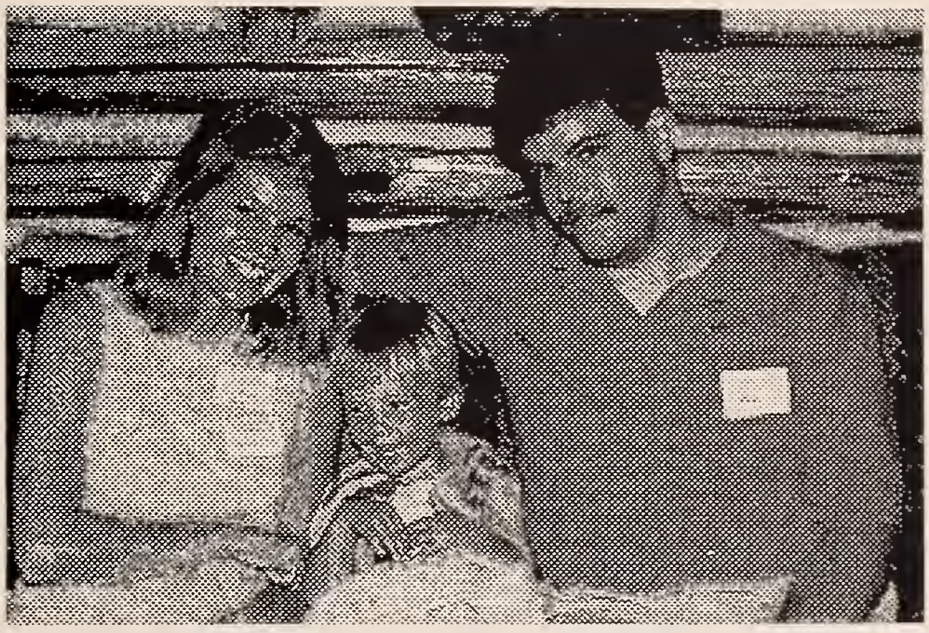
Paul and Brenda have two daughters, **Erika Beth Hanson9** born January 9, 1987. Erika enjoys sports She plays girls softball and also enjoys snow boarding. She will play softball with a traveling softball team for West Michigan. Erika enjoys music and plays the tuba in the Reeths Puffer Marching Band. She also enjoys many forms of Art.

Brittney Leigh Hanson9 born March 7, 1990. She also enjoys music and plays the flute. Brittney also enjoys playing softball and basketball. She likes to do scrap booking with pictures and she likes to sew. Both Erika and Brittney were born in Gerber Memorial Hospital in Fremont, Michigan.

JON ERIC HANSON

Photo by his grandfather, Philip E. Woodhouse.

Jon Eric Hanson8 was born January 28, 1964 in Muskegon. Jon is the youngest child of Coral and Don Hanson. He played the tuba in the Reeths Puffer High School Band and he also played football. Jon graduated from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan and was a systems analyst for the Meijers Stores and now works for the Spartan Stores in the same capacity.



LINDA, RYAN AND JON HANSON

Jon married **Linda Bettens** born January 18, 1966 in Valparaso, Indiana, They were married August 25, 1986 in Muskegon, Michigan. Linda is a high school science teacher.

Jon and Linda have one son, **Jon Ryan Hanson9** He is called Ryan. Ryan is interested in baseball, soccer.

CORAL HANSON AGE 22

Coral died February 19, 1987 of advanced breast cancer. She was 55 years old. Don later married Verda Huey in March of 1988.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

JANET SUE & STANLEY GUY

MARRIED JUNE 15, 1957
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

JEFFREY PHILIP - 1958
RACHAEL MARIE - 1960
CYNTHIA LYNNE - 1962

JANET SUE WOODHOUSE 1938-1986
STANLEY BARNES GUY 1937-

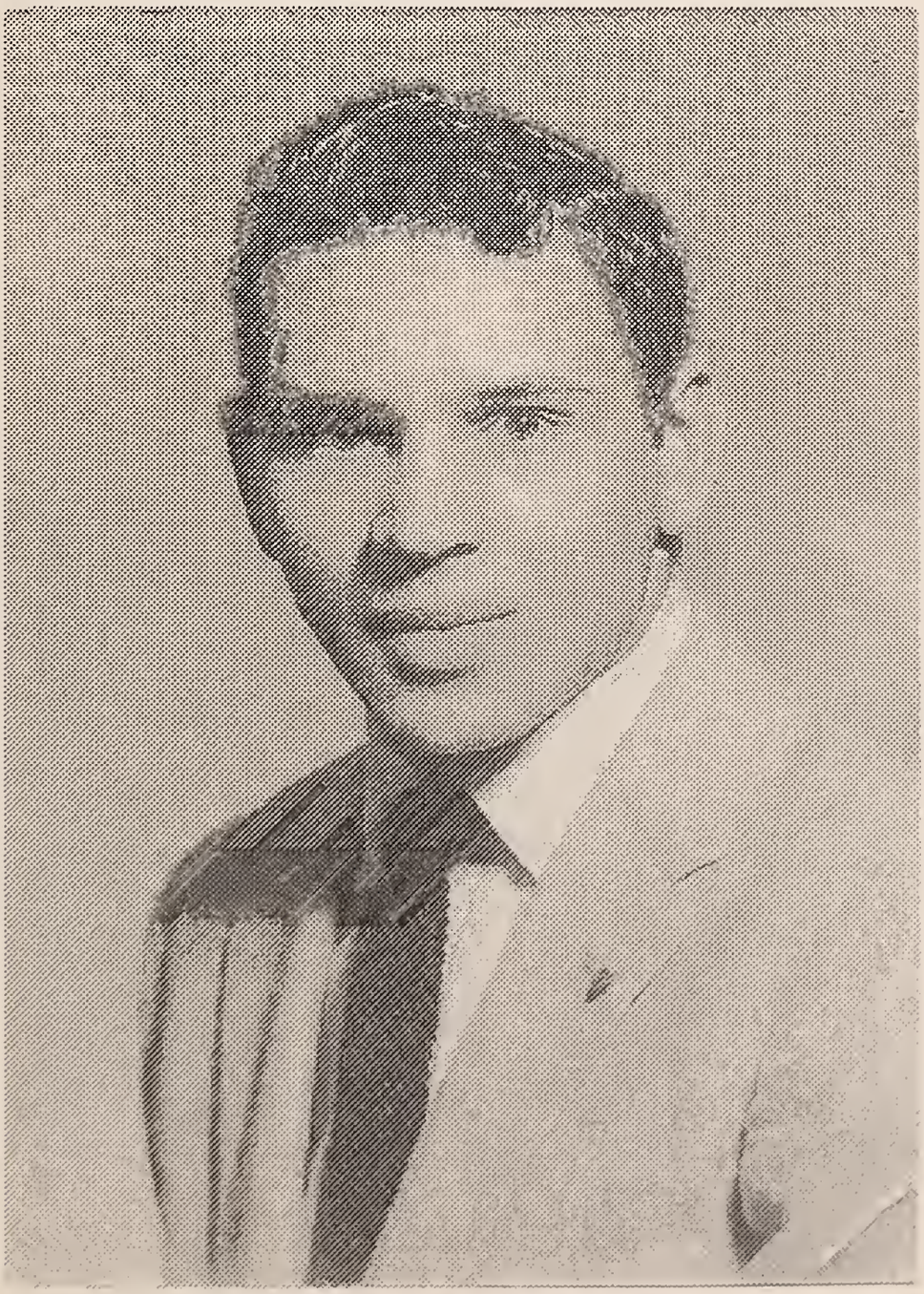
Janet Sue Woodhouse7 was born March 29, 1938 in Muskegon, Michigan. Jan is the third daughter of Phil and Wilma Woodhouse.

JANET SUE WOODHOUSE

JANET SUE WOODHOUSE

Jan, like her sisters, began in kindergarten and went through the North Muskegon School system and graduated in 1956. She went to business school in Muskegon and worked at the Muskegon Police Department and later in Ludington, Michigan. She was the Secretary to the Principal of North Muskegon Elementary School for many years.

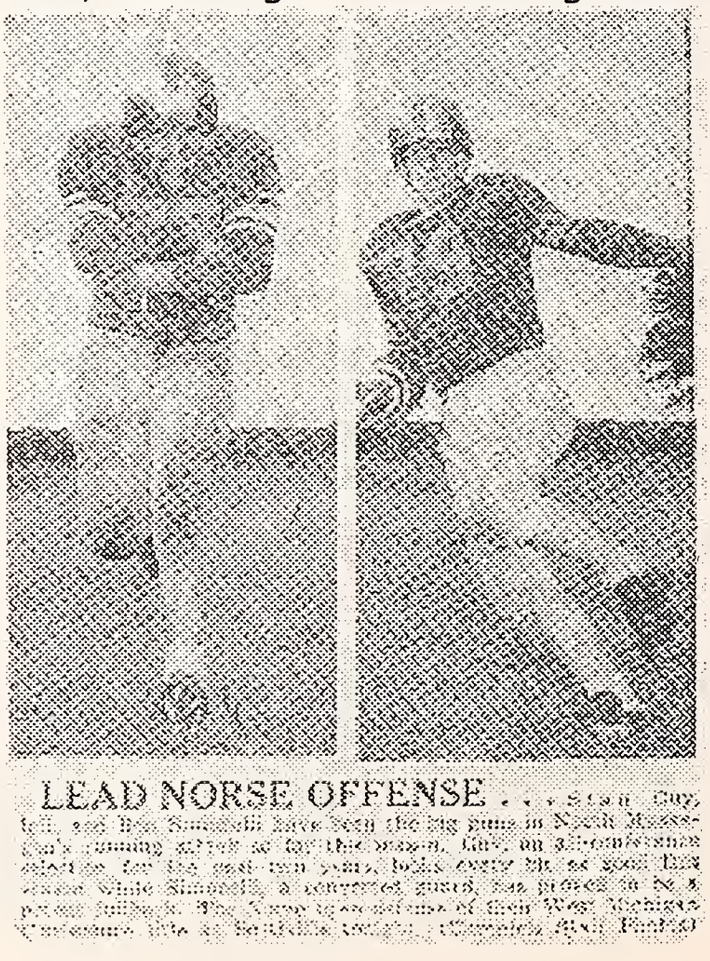
Jan was always very particular about her self and later her family and her home. I remember a family story about Janet and Stan Guy when they were dating in high school. He came to the door to pick her up for a date and he was wearing something that apparently Jan thought was in appropriate. She told him she wouldn't go anywhere with him until he changed. He went home and changed into something more conservative. When Stan picked Jan up for another date later on, he came to the door and Jan was in slacks. He told her to change into a skirt or he wouldn't take her out. She changed into a skirt. That's the way there life together was after they were married. Open and honest, give and take.



STANLEY BARNES GUY

Stanley Barnes Guy was born February 13, 1937 at Trout Creek, in the upper peninsula of Michigan. His parents were Arthur E. Guy and Kathleen Marie Carrol.

Jan and Stan were high school sweethearts. Stan was an outstanding athlete in high school. He was a quarterback for the North Muskegon football team. Stan's family lived outside of town and when he had a football game he often had dinner at our parents house because he didn't have time to go home and eat. One time our mother, (Wilma) had made fresh deep fried donuts and they tasted so good to Stan that he ate a lot of them. During the game that night, with all our family out watching the game and rooting for North Muskegon and Stan, he ended up on the bottom of a pile of football players. One of the few times he couldn't out run them. Teasing mom he blamed it on her donuts. Stan was perhaps the smallest player on the team but he could run fast and zig zag around the opponent with a great deal of dexterity. Dad asked him how he could run so fast, he replied: "If you saw all those big guys coming after you, you would run fast too!" Our family followed Stan and the Norsemen through most of his high school athletic career, including out of town games.



LEAD NORSE OFFENSE . . .

(under photo) "LEAD NORSE OFFENSE.....Stan Guy, left and Ron Simonelli have been the big game in North Muskegon's running attack so far this season. Guy, an all conference selection for the past two years looks every bit as good this season, while Simonelli, a converted guard has proven to be a potent fullback. The Norse open defense of their West Michigan Conference title at Scottville tonight".

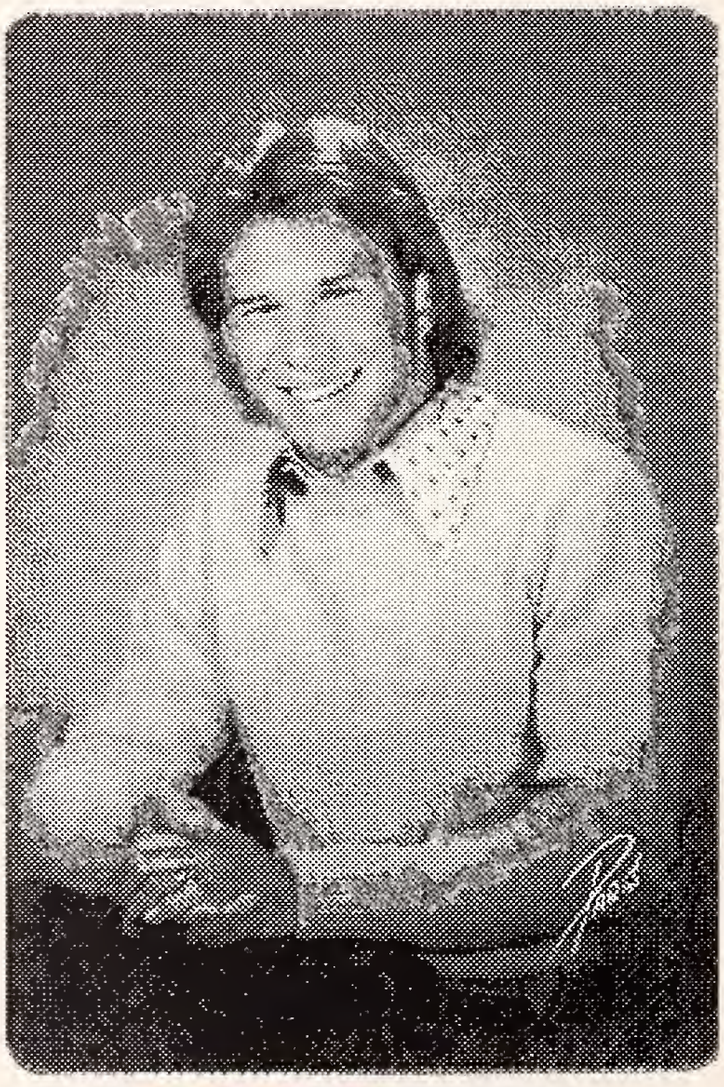
This is just one of many Muskegon and Grand Rapids newspaper articles telling about Stan on the football field and in track competition for North Muskegon. Stan was awarded an athletic scholarship to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Janet and Stan were married June 15, 1958 in the Laketon Bethel Reform Church. Their own church, the North Muskegon Community Methodist Church was too small at that time to hold all the invited guests. Family members were involved in the wedding. Jan's sister Linda Woodhouse and Carol Guy, Stan's sister, were both maids of honor. Jack Smith, my husband, was an usher. Arlene, (myself) sang the Lords Prayer and another song. Coral and Don were Masters of Ceremony at the reception.

JEFF, STAN, CINDY, JANET, SHELLY GUY

Janet and Stan first lived at 240 Maple Court in North Muskegon. Stan got involved in Boy Scouts as a volunteer and soon was offered a paying job in the Scouts. They moved to Lima, Ohio for awhile while represented the Boy Scouts. They later moved back to North Muskegon where Stan worked for the United Parcel Service as a driver.

They bought a house on 612 California Street off Scenic Drive in North Muskegon, Michigan. It is in this home that they raised their family. Janet and Stan have three children.



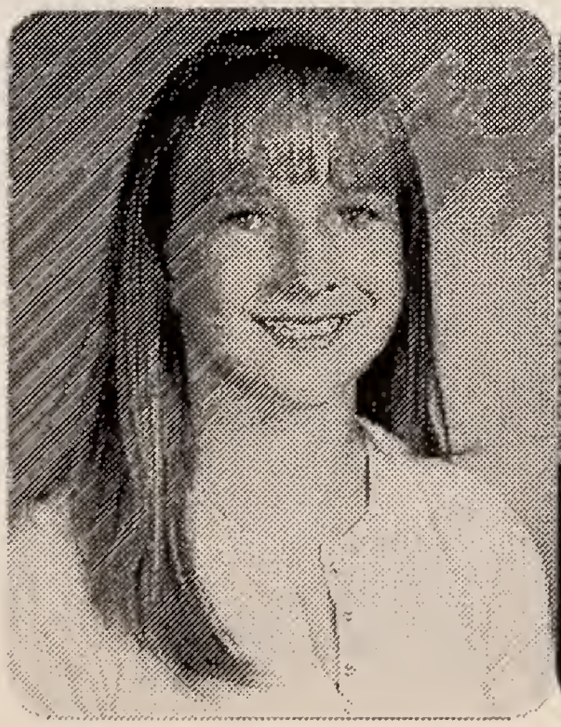
JEFFREY PHILIP GUY

Jeffrey Philip Guy8 was born March 22, 1958 in Muskegon, Michigan. Jeff graduated from North Muskegon High School and became a banker. He married Pamela Ann Maple born June 6, 1955, daughter of Marion Virius Maple and Eloise Marie Pyne. Jeff and Pam lived and worked in Boulder, Colorado for a few years. It was here that their daughter **Crystal Sue Guy9** was born June 5 1984. They came back to North Muskegon and bought Janet and Stan's house a few years after Janet died. While living here their second daughter **Briana Marie Guy9** was born March 7, 1987 in Hackley Hospital in Muskegon.

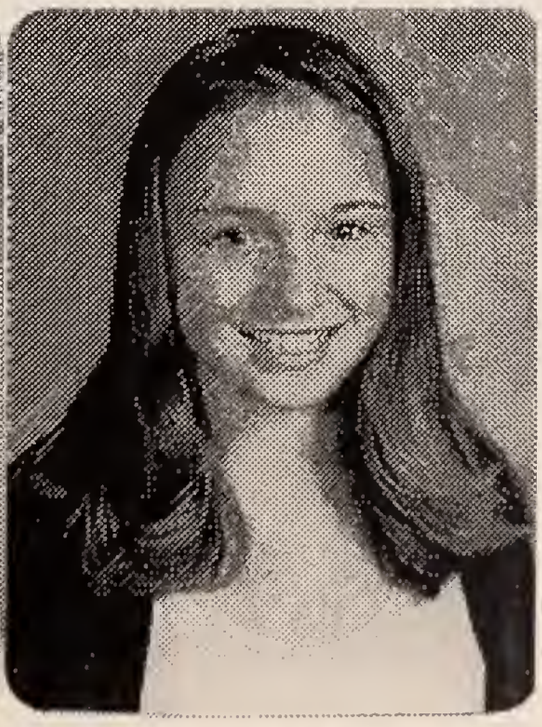
Jeff and Pam built a new house on Bear Lake Road in North Muskegon in 2001. Crystal and Briana are students at North Muskegon High School. Crystal has played soccer and run track. She has also been part of a Competitive Cheer team as a "flyer" which competed on the state level.

Briana "Bree" is a tennis player and a competitive dancer as well.

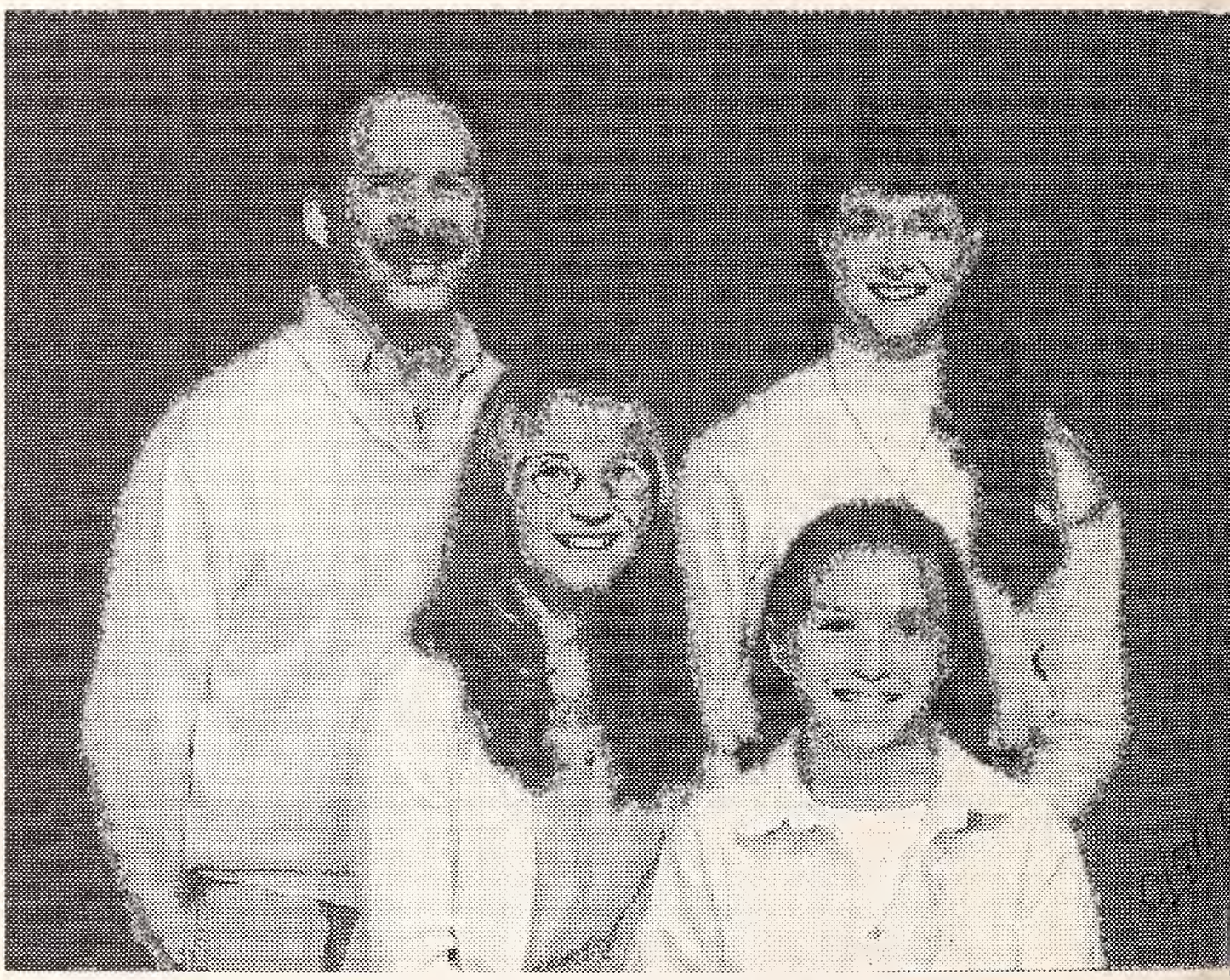
Jeff is moving up as a banker in Muskegon and Pam is a letter carrier for the U. S. Post Office Muskegon.



CRYSTAL SUE GUY



BRIANA MARIE GUY



JEFF, CRYSTAL, PAM AND BREE GUY (IN FRONT)

Rachel Marie Guy[8] was born March 22, 1958 in Muskegon Michigan. Shelly and her sister Cindy Guy were both outstanding track runners in North Muskegon High School.

North Muskegon girls track team members Shelly (left) and Cindy Guy take a break during a practice session.

orth Muskegon's 'Guys' want
bring state track title home

MUSKEGON CHRONICLE MAY 31, 1979

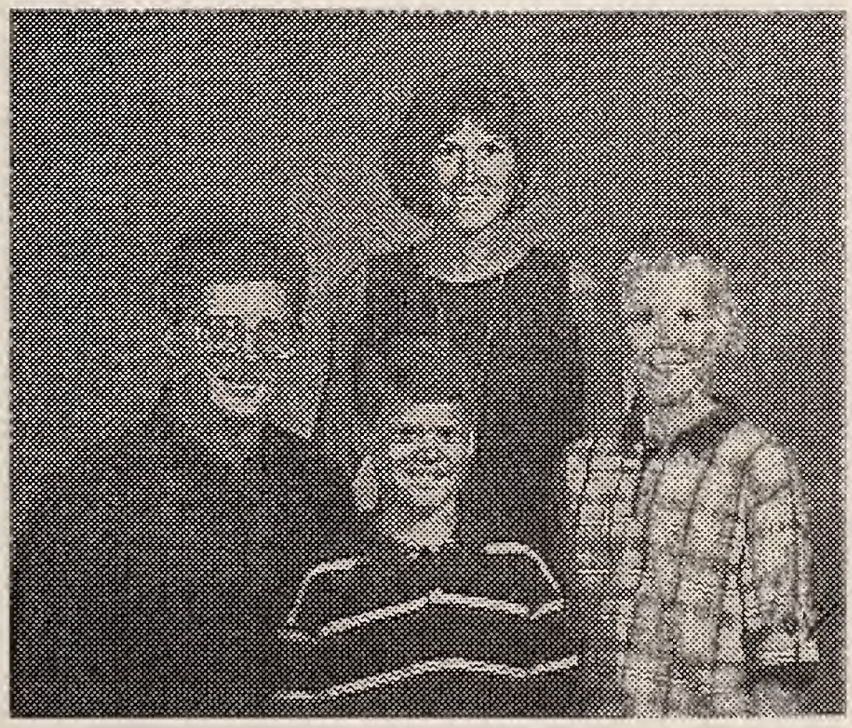
The North Muskegon girls track team went on to win the State title that year. The family; grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins as well as their parents, all turned out to cheer them on.

After Shelly graduated from North Muskegon High School she went to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan where she graduated with a degree in Special Education. It was here she met Eric Jay Johnson born January 11, 1961 in Detroit, Michigan to Norman Avery Johnson and Rose Marie Holmstrom. Eric graduated from Western Michigan University in paper sciences. Eric works for International Paper.

RACHAEL MARIE GUY AND ERIC JAY JOHNSON WED

After graduation Shelly and Eric were married August 31, 1985 in the North Muskegon Community Methodist Church. After their honeymoon in Switzerland they settled in Florida in the Pensacola and Gulf Breeze areas.

Shelly teaches Special Education for children in Pace, Florida where they live.



ERIC, SHELLY, NICK, & ALEX JOHNSON (IN FRONT)

Shelly and Eric have two sons. **Nicholas Avery Johnson9** was born January 11, 1988 in Pensacola, Florida. Nick plays baseball and soccer. Nick is a Boy Scout . **Alexander Philip Johnson9** was born January 25, 1991. Alex enjoys playing baseball.
The whole family is active. They take skiing vacations together when they can. Eric plays golf and Shelly and Eric play tennis.

Cynthia Lynne Guy8 was born June 29, 1962 in Muskegon, Michigan. Cindy was an outstanding runner in track for North Muskegon and she and her sister enjoyed being on the Norse Track Team for several years together. Their coach Karen Bailey is quoted in saying; "they (Shelly and Cindy) are key people in the relays and they are one-two on the team in the sprints. Both have qualified in the 100 yard dash and the 880 and 400 relays. Shelly will be competing in the long jump too and Cindy in the 220 dash." Our family enjoyed going to the meets and watching them run.

CYNTHIA LYNNE GUY

Cindy graduated from North Muskegon High School and then went to Western Michigan University for her undergraduate work. Cindy met **Keith Allen Kuhn** the son of Kenneth Bruce Kuhn and Cora Wiseman when he was visiting his brother who was playing baseball at Western. Cindy was running track there. Keith was born June 7, 1960 in Detroit, Michigan. Keith was a student at Central Michigan University. Cindy went on to get a degree in Learning Disabilities from Grand Valley State University.

Cindy and Keith were married in the United Methodist Church in North Muskegon on July 23, 1983.

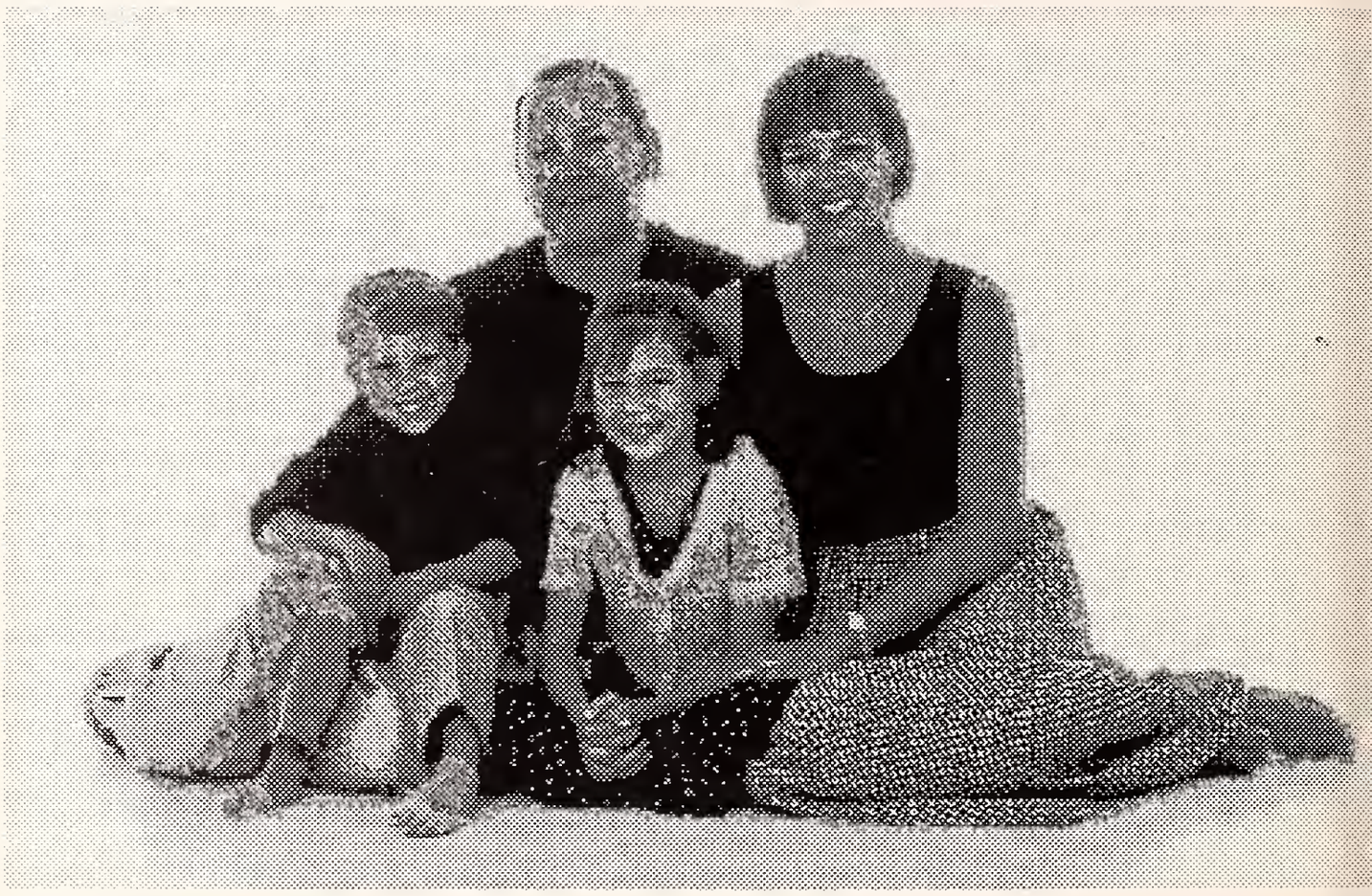
They lived in North Muskegon first and it was there that their two children were born. **Jenna Rachael Kuhn9** was born March 3, 1988 in Muskegon, Michigan. **Brett Allen Kuhn9** was born June 12, 1992 in Muskegon, Michigan.

They moved to Novi, Michigan where they bought a home. Keith is and mortgage broker His business is called Innovative Mortgage Company. To quote Cindy "Keith is an awesome golfer who won the club invitational this year, and hopes to win the the club championship this coming year. He has played in the Olds Scramble many times and one year qualified for nationals in Orlando, Florida".

Cindy was teaching Special Education until recently when she began teaching third grade at the Parview Elementary School in Novi, Michigan. She enjoys playing golf and tennis but spends most of her time away from teaching in "carting my kids and watching them play sports".

Cindy reports that Jenna, who is now 14 years old (2002) is a good student and enjoys time with her friends. Jenna plays soccer, golf and tennis and volleyball. She will attend Volleyball Summer Camp at M.S.U. Brett is in a gifted program and a good 4th grade student. He is in TAG classes at a local college. He plays chess and entered a tournament and won 2nd place. Brett enjoys sports that require movement such as Basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, baseball and is starting football this year.

The Kuhn family have a much loved Golden Retriever named Sadie who is reported as the cutest, happiest dog you could imagine.



THE KUHN FAMILY
BRETT, KEITH, JENNA, & CINDY

As I was writing this book Cindy shared some of her memories with me. She said: "If you are adding memories of Woodhouse gatherings, I remember very fondly of the trips to the farm on Easter Sunday. Especially getting our kites to fly and when Jeff rode one of the horses and it stopped in the middle of the pond with him on it and wouldn't budge. I also remember sledding down the hill by Aunt Corals and riding our bikes over the big jump Paul and Jon had made - they called me Evil Kinevel until I got hurt. Mostly I remember going camping at West Lake and the Takessians (who is the funny one that would knock on the camper door and say 'Ranger'?) and you singing around the campfire. What great memories!" That warmed this aunts heart.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

LINDA LEE & ERNEST KIGGINS

MARRIED AUGUST 26, 1961
NORTH MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

KIMBERLY MARIE - 1963
TRACEY LYNN - 1965
DANIEL JAMES - 1969

LINDA LEE WOODHOUSE 1941-2001
ERNEST EDMOND KIGGINS 1941-

Linda Lee Woodhouse7 was born December 26, 1941 in Mercy Hospital, Muskegon, Michigan to Philip and Wilma Woodhouse. The youngest of their four daughters.

In 1951, when Linda was nine years old she got polio. There was a polio epidemic and Linda was the 18th polio patient in Muskegon County. She had to be kept in isolation in Hackley Hospital. Her case turned out to be mild compared to many who were crippled for life. With persistent exercise after she was home, she recovered fully. Dr. Jonas Salk perfected the Salk Vaccine for polio prevention soon after that.

Linda graduated from North Muskegon High School in 1959 and got a summer job working for Old Trails Riding Stables in Oceana County. It was here that she met **Ernest Edmond Kiggins** born July 6, 1941 in Hiles, Michigan to Arthur Kiggins and Wava Bibby of Bitely in Newaygo County, Michigan.

Ernie was working at Old Trails Stables too. He was very good with animals. Linda and Ernie both enjoyed horses and riding. Ernie was drafted into the United States Army. He was a Private First Class when he was able to came home on leave and they were married August 26, 1961 in the North Muskegon Community Methodist Church. Linda's niece, Merrilee Kay Smith was her maid of honor and two friends were bridesmaids. The flower girl was her niece Debbie Hanson. Linda's sister Coral Hanson sang for the wedding. There was a nice reception at the Muskegon Conservation Club on Scenic Drive, North Muskegon.

After a wedding trip to Campbell Lake in Michigan they went to live where Ernie was stationed at Fort Ritchey, Maryland.

Ernie worked with dogs in the K9 Corp and he was sent to Oslo, Norway where he was a guard at the U. S. Embassy in Oslo. Linda went with him. When they were expecting their first child Linda returned to North Muskegon. Their daughter **Kimberly Marie Kiggins8** was born September 26, 1963 in Muskegon. When Ernie got out of the Army he came home and they lived in Muskegon. Their second daughter, **Tracey Lynn Kiggins8** was born March 26, 1965 in Muskegon.

LINDA AND ERNIE KIGGINS

LINDA AND ERNIE with daughters TRACEY AND KIM KIGGINS

Linda and Ernie and the two girls moved to Fremont for a few years. It was here that their son **Daniel James Kigginss** was born. When Danny was two years old Linda and Ernie were divorced. Linda remained in Fremont and got a job with Gerber Products Company. She later moved to Muskegon and for many years she drove a school bus for the Muskegon Schools Special Education. Students. I heard many reports that the children loved her.

KIMBERLY MARIE KIGGINS
(Photo by her grandfather Philip E. Woodhouse)

Kimberly Marie Williams8 graduated from High School and later married **Ernest James Williams.** Ernie, called "Bits" when he was

younger, was born August 21, 1963 in Muskegon, Michigan. They had two daughters, **Jennifer Rae Williams9** born January 19, 1982 in Muskegon, Michigan and **Ashley Ann Williams9** born January 4, 1984 in Willingboro, New Jersey where her father was stationed with the Army.

Ernie Williams was inducted into the United States Army and became a career officer. He was stationed in New Jersey when their daughter Ashley was born. Kim came back to Muskegon with the children and Ernie was moved from New Jersey to Georgia, Hawaii and to Texas. It was here that he opted out of the Army. Meanwhile, Kim and Ernie were divorced. Ernie married two more times. Jenni and Ashley visited their father in Hawaii and in Texas.

Kim and her daughters have enjoyed going on several cruises together. Kim has done a good job of raising her daughters by herself. Jenni and Ashley became very attached to their great grand parents, Philip and Wilma Woodhouse. Their great grandfather, Philip became like a father figure to them. (see the tributes by them to him at his funeral). Kim operates a Daycare Center in her home, for infants and small children, while their parents work.

Jennifer Rae Williams9 graduated from Reeths Puffer High School and married **Timothy Joseph Bond** born February 23, 1981 in Muskegon, Michigan. Tim is the son of Donald and Teresa Bond. Jennifer and Tim were married December 9, 2000 in the Friendship Wesleyan Church in the Reeths Puffer area north of Muskegon. They live on Ruddiman Drive in North Muskegon, Michigan. Tim is working but also going to ITT technical school in Grand Rapids, Michigan to learn Computer Networking. He plans to be finished in 2003.

Jennifer and Tim have a son **Cole Allen Philip Bond10**, born October 29, 2001. Jennifer works for her mother, Kim at the DayCare where she can keep her son with her while she works. She has recently begun to take classes at Muskegon Community College and would like to major in Child Psychology.

FOUR GENERATIONS ON JENNIFER AND TIMS WEDDING DAY

Back row: Kim Williams, mother of the bride, Wiima Woodhouse great grandmother, The bride Jennifer, Her grandmother, Linda Kiggins, Her sister, Tracey Grigonis.
Front: Nieces, Tori and Alix Grigonis, Flower girls.

Ashley Williams has been a Girl Scout and learned First Aid in scouting. It came in handy when a classmate fell into a window and cut a bad gash in his arm. He was bleeding profusely and Ashley knew what to do. She applied pressure to the wound and held his arm up over his head and guided him to the principal's office for more help. This was written up in the Muskegon Chronicle and the article stated that he might have bled to death but for the quick thinking of Ashley Williams.

ASHLEY ANN WILLIAMS

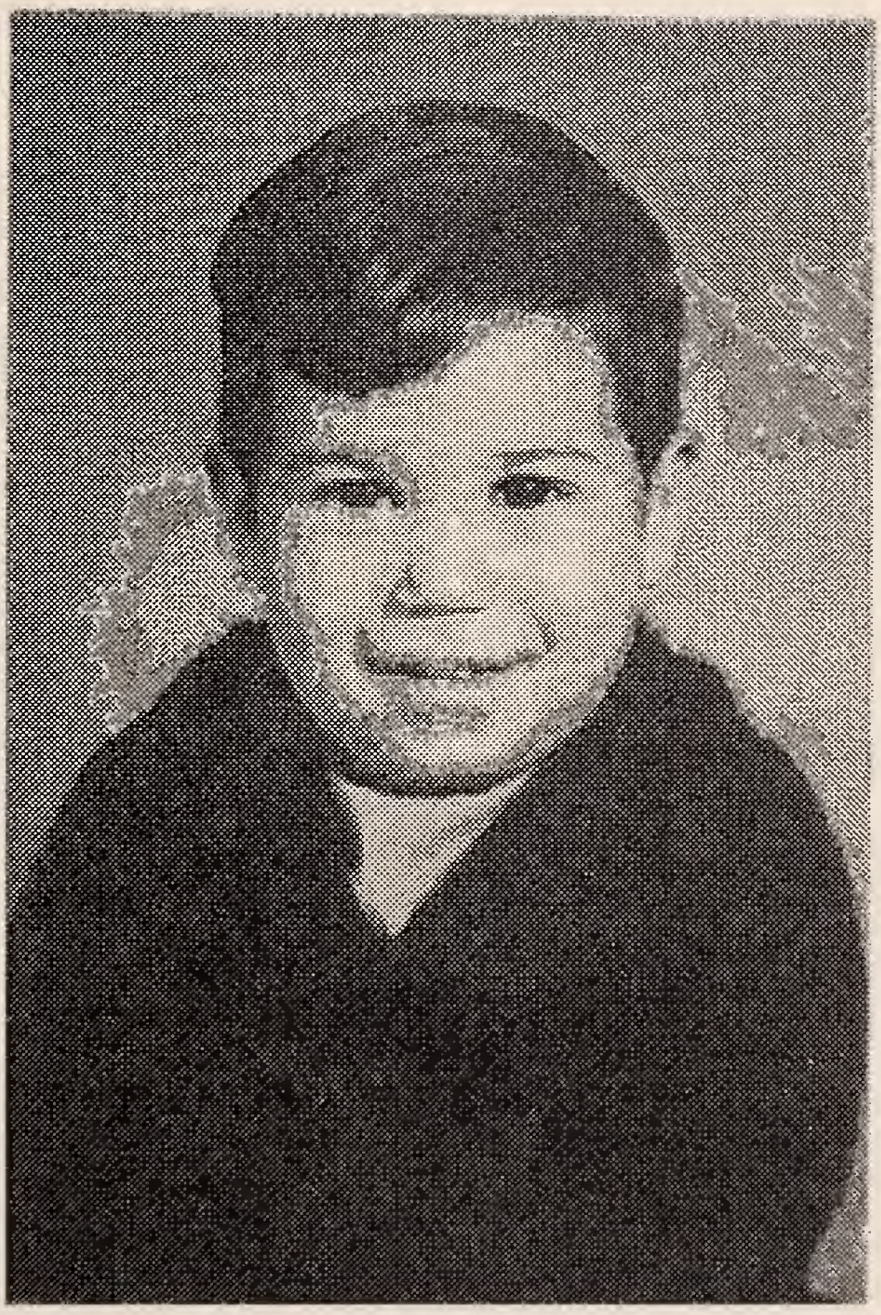
TRACEY LYNN KIGGINS
(Photo by Philip E. Woodhouse)

Tracey Lynn Kigginsˢ was born March 26, 1965 to Linda and Ernie Kiggins. She was born in Muskegon, Michigan. Tracey graduated from Reeths Puffer Schools in North Muskegon, Michigan and went on to Nursing School and earned a Registered Nurses Degree.

Tracey married Douglas Allen Grigonis born March 29, 1962 in Shelby, Oceana County, Michigan. They were married August 17, 1991 in Muskegon, Michigan.

Tracey and Doug have three children. Doug brought to the marriage his son, **Andrew D. Grigonis/McCaleb**. Drew was born May 25, 1985 in Grand Haven, Ottawa County, Michigan.

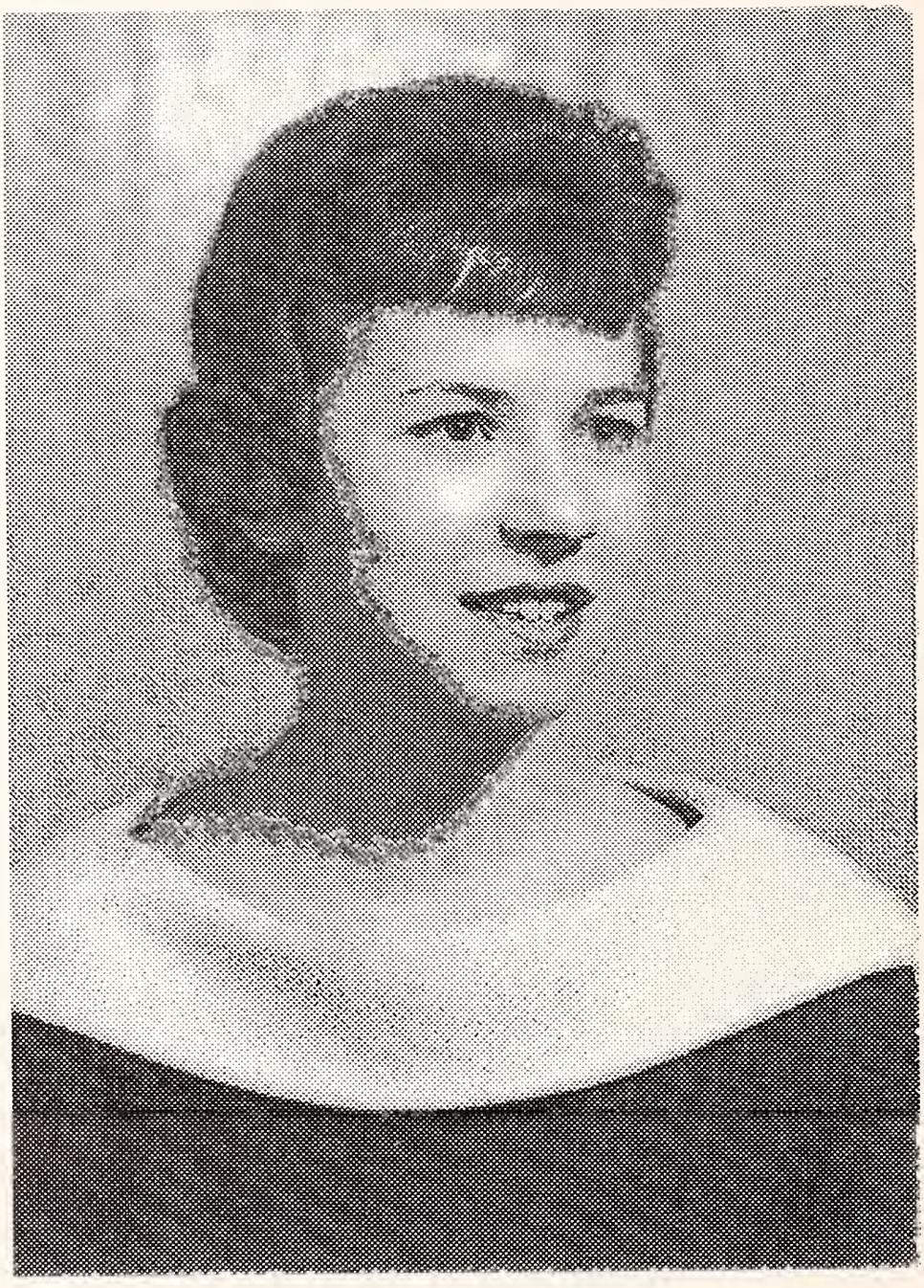
Their first daughter, **Tori Ilyse Grigonis⁹** was born October 19, 1992 in Muskegon General Hospital. Their second daughter, **Alix Michelle Grigonis⁹** was born January 17, 1995 in in Muskegon General Hospital where Tracey was currently employed as a R.N. Tracey worked there for some time and later joined the Visiting Nurses Organization.



DANIEL JAMES KIGGINS

Daniel James Kiggins8 was born July 17, 1969 in Gerber Memorial Hospital in Fremont, Michigan to Ernest and Linda Kiggins. He married first Robin Jean Hopkins and they were later divorced.

Dan married Tina Vanderlawn June 21, 2001. Tina brought four children to the marriage. They lived in Dan's mother Linda's home in Whitehall, Michigan after she died. Dan works in a foundry in Muskegon.



LINDA LEE KIGGINS

Linda Lee Kiggins died July 21, 2001 of Cancer. She is buried in Cemetery, with her sisters and her father. Linda enjoyed sewing, and doing crafts. She enjoyed her family and all creatures. She enjoyed feeding all the birds that came to her yard.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

V. ARLENE WOODHOUSE & JACK EARL SMITH

MARRIED AUGUST 31, 1945
NORTH MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

CHILDREN:

MERRILEE KAY - 1946
MICHAEL LYNN - 1949
JACK RICHARD - 1950

V. ARLENE SMITH & RAY CHARLES FRODEY

MARRIED JANUARY 9, 1982

VIRGINIA ARLENE WOODHOUSE

JACK EARL SMITH 1924-1975
RAY CHARLES FRODEY 1923

VIRGINIA ARLENE WOODHOUSE

Virginia Arlene Woodhouse7 was born May 23, 1927 to Philip & Wilma Woodhouse at home on Jirock Street in Muskegon, Michigan.

Because I grew tall fast and was skinny, and seemingly "all arms and legs" my parents arranged for me to take tap dancing lessons. They were also determined that I would have good posture and self confidence. So my mother had me walk around with a book on my head every night after school for awhile. There was a new group of dancers in New York City called The Rockettes who at that time would only accept women six foot or over, and there was group of models called the Glamazons who had to be six feet or taller to qualify. Mother would cut out newspaper clippings about these glamorous tall women and leave them strategically around the house for me to find and read. This was before you could buy clothes for tall people and mother always saw to it that I had nice clothes that fit me and were as flattering as possible on my long and then shapeless form.

By the time I was a junior in North Muskegon High School I was five foot ten inches tall. My cousin Lois Woodhouse, Uncle Gerry's daughter, was about five foot tall and a senior that year. When they came to the end of the alphabet while assigning lockers for the high school students, Lois and I were left over in both classes and so we were assigned to share a locker. We always laughed that there was never a discussion as to which got the top shelf of the locker and who got the lower one. I was the first of the four daughters born to Phil and Wilma Woodhouse. We all went from Kindergarten through graduation in the North Muskegon Schools on Ruddiman Drive.

When I tried out for the Junior play in high school I got a character part. It was fun so I tried out for the Senior play and also an "all school" play. I got parts in all of them and was presented with the Thespian Award before graduation, much to my surprise.

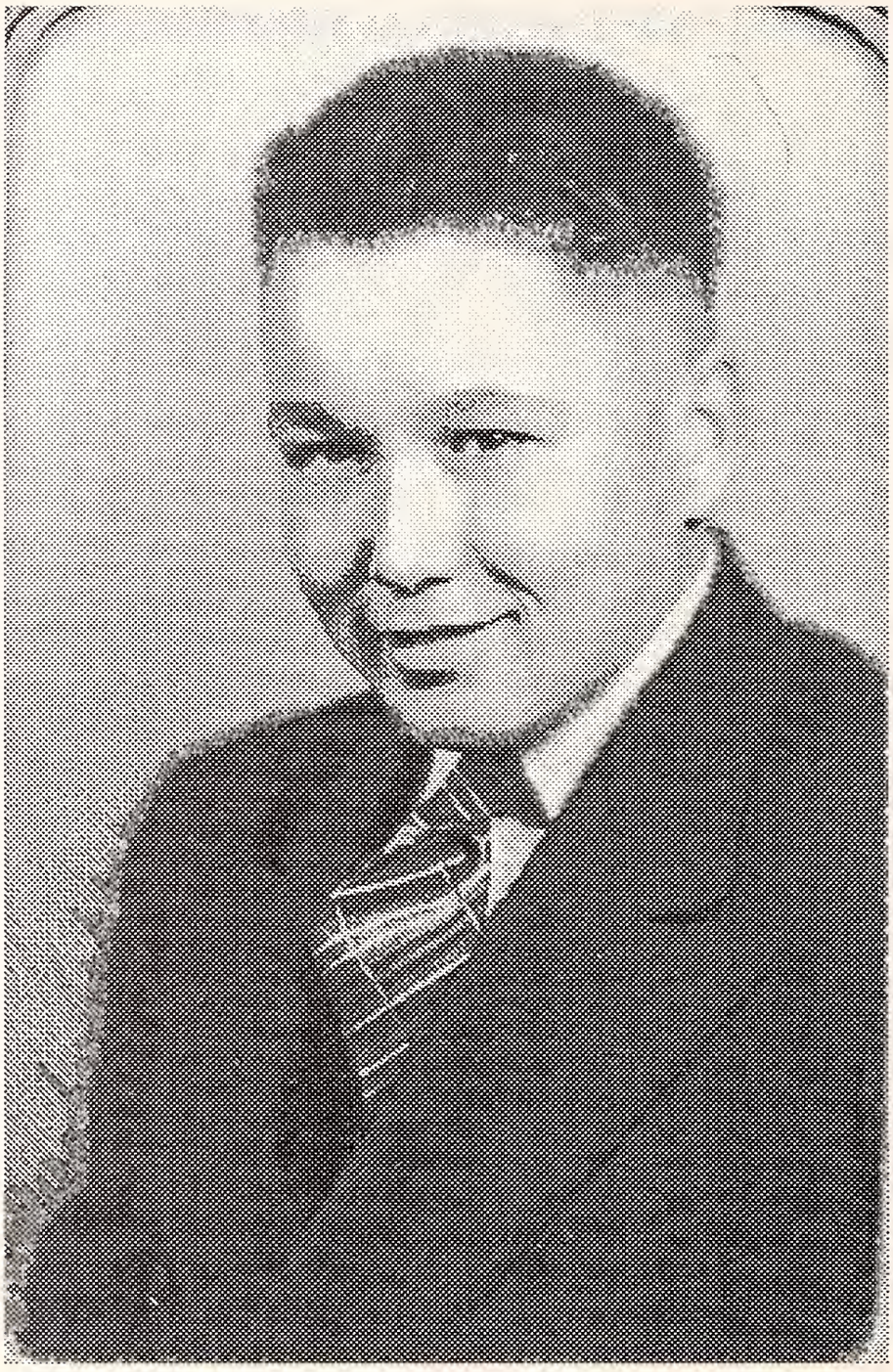
Music has always been an important part of my life. I took piano lessons as a child and in Junior High I studied the violin but never became proficient at either. I have always liked to sing and sang in the Community Methodist Church Junior Choir, and the North Muskegon High School Chorus and Accupela Choirs. After I married Jack Smith and lived in Fremont I sang in the Fremont United Methodist Church Choir for more than 30 years. I sometimes sang

for weddings. Coral and I sang at home while doing dishes after supper and occasionally for groups as adults. After Coral and Don were married they sometimes sang duets for their church gatherings.

FLAG TWIRLERS-NORTH MUSKEGON MARCHING BAND

Shirley Schuiteman and I were the first flag twirlers for the North Muskegon Marching Band from 1942 to 1945 when I graduated and my sister Coral took over my flag.

It was during my Junior year at North Muskegon High School that my Uncle Gene Hathaway introduced me to Jack Earl Smith. Uncle Gene, who was mothers young brother, was less than five years older and was more like a big brother than an uncle to me. Uncle Gene took me to dances a few times. We both loved to dance. I was allowed to go places with Uncle Gene before I was allowed to date. Jack graduated from Fremont High School in 1941.



JACK EARL SMITH FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

When my Uncle Gene introduced Jack and me I was sixteen and he was "a college man" of 19 taking Agriculture Short Courses at Michigan State University. Uncle Gene had gotten to know him when they both played instruments in the Fremont High School Marching Band. Gene played the clarinet and Jack played the trombone.

Jack had been working with his dad on the Smith farm north of Fremont since graduation and decided to take some classes at

Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan. He was home for the holiday's when we met.

Jack took me too my Senior Prom in May of 1945. It was held at the old Continental Hotel Ballroom on Western Avenue in Muskegon. It was a beautiful old building and sadly it was torn down some time ago.

JACK AND ARLENE AT LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH

Jack and I dated through my Junior and Senior years of high school. He lived on a farm in Fremont and I lived in North Muskegon. This was during World War II and gas was rationed so it made getting together for dates a challenge but he managed, and after I graduated in June of 1945 we were well into plans to be married August 31, 1945 in the North Muskegon Community Methodist Church.

Mrs. Riley an ardent Baptist, held bible study classes in their home and I got to know her daughter Eloise. About a month before our wedding Eloise invited me to go for a ride in her new little Piper Cub plane, a little two seater. It was my first airplane ride and what a ride. She took me over the farm where I would be living soon. She

showed me she could to barrel rolls, and tail spins and by the time we were back on the ground my legs were so shaky I wasn't sure I would be able to stand. I learned later from her mother that, while she had passed her examination she didn't have her license yet and shouldn't have been taking anyone up with her!

Jack Earl Smith was born June 28, 1924 in Kalamazoo, Michigan and was the adopted son of Clifford Herbert Smith and Myrl Daphne Johnson of Fremont, Michigan. He was their only child but they did raise a ward of the court, Lillian Delong. Lillian, whom Jack called "sis" lived with the Smiths from age 12 until she left home after graduating from Fremont High School. When Jack was an infant, before the Smiths adopted him, he had a corneal ulcer on his left eye and had almost no vision in that eye. This meant that he was not drafted into the military service for W.W.II.

Jack asked me to marry him at the end of my junior year of high school. I said yes, I would be a farmers wife.

The Smith farms were two miles north of Main Street Fremont. There were 450 acres in all, a few miles from my grand parents farm. Jacks parents and my grandparents knew each other.

JACK EARL SMITH AND ARLENE WOODHOUSE WERE WED

Our wedding day, August 31, 1945 was a very hot and humid day. Jack, my well tanned and hard working farm boy husband-to-be was uncomfortable in a navy blue suit and tie. He suffered through it and we were married. My friend Marilyn Paulson who later became Mrs. Burrell Colburn, was my maid of honor and my sister Coral was my bridesmaid. Our friend Bill White of North Muskegon was Jacks best man. His cousin Neal Johnson was an usher. Our reception was at my parents home in North Muskegon.

We went on a short honeymoon at Jack's Uncle Arthur Johnson's resort in East Tawas in Northern Michigan on Lake Huron. Then came home to begin our life together on a hundred acre farm a half mile from his parents farm two miles north of the main street of Fremont, Michigan. I was a city girl and only 18 but determined to be a good farmers wife. Jack was 21.

VIRGINIA ARLENE WOODHOUSE

Our home was built by Jacks grandfather Fountain Smith with the help of his brother William Smith. Fountain and his wife Isabelle Parker both came to America from England at different times and met in Dayton Township, Newaygo County, Michigan. Fountain Smith was born in Grimsby, England and Isabel from a town nearby.

Two different groups of Jack's friends gave us old fashioned "shivarees". One was from the young adult Sunday school class at the Fremont Methodist Church, and the other was a Junior Farm Bureau group. They came after dark and banged pots and pans and rang cow bells and made a lot of noise. When we let them in they brought with them a big pot of coffee, sandwiches and cakes. This was my introduction to the junior farming community. Many lasting friendships came from people in those two groups.

We began painting and papering our forty year old farm house soon after we were married and continued the remodeling process for the 30 years that we lived in it. It had one of the last wall crank telephones.

It is strange the things that one misses when they leave home. Having grown up a short distance from Lake Michigan, I missed hearing the fog horn at the lighthouse on the north shore of the "big lake" in North Muskegon. Every time there was fog in at the farm in Fremont, I instinctively listened for the fog horn and felt a little bit homesick.

Following in my mothers footsteps I sewed a lot for myself and for my family as they grew. Because it was a lot less expensive then and because I enjoyed doing it, I made most of my clothes, and almost all of the children's clothes. I tried my hand at a few winter coats and sport jackets. Merrilee learned to sew in 4H classes and in school.

When it was time for my daughter to have a wedding dress I thought she might like to have a beautiful store bought dress that she could try on before buying it. So we went shopping in Muskegon and Grand Rapids and she tried on many dresses never finding just what she had in mind. At the end of one exhausting day of shopping she asked me to make her dress. I was working by then but was delighted to be asked. She helped me design it and she looked lovely in it.

THE HOME OF THE JACK E. SMITH FAMILY ON 32ND STREET

The city girl learns to become a farmers wife

In my effort to be a farm wife I tried my hand at raising chickens because Mother Smith told me that she used to make enough with her eggs to buy the families groceries each week. My chicks to eggs venture didn't work out that well and I gave that project up.

That first October after we were married it was thrashing time and my first experience feeding a thrashing crew. I had helped my Grandma Hathaway to feed thrashing crews before so I thought I

knew what it was all about! Well, at least I had set the table for her and washed dishes but had never really prepared the food. In case you are not familiar with this process--- When it came time for harvesting the wheat some of the neighboring farmers came together and would go around to each of their farms to cut the wheat. They then separate the wheat from the straw and the grain is put into a grain bin, and the straw blown into the barn loft. As a group they hire a big thrashing machine complete with driver to run it while they drove their own tractors to the field to get the mature grain and bring it to the barn. The thrashing machine separates the grain and it goes out one chute and the straw is chopped and blown from another chute into the loft.

These are big hungry men when they come in the house, wash up and sit down at the table. I had hardly learned more than to open a can of Campbell's soup and make a tuna noodle casserole at this point. Thankfully, my new mother-in-law came and supervised my initiation into feeding a thrashing crew. She was a good cook and I heard no complaints.

This city girl learned early to drive the big old John Deere tractor with a clutch so stiff that I had to stand and put all my weight on it to get the clutch down far enough to function. The brake was next to the clutch. I had not learned to drive a car yet when I bravely offered to drive the tractor when they were hauling hay and needed a driver. The loose hay came up over the back of a hay loader onto the flat bed wagon fast and both Jack and his Dad were needed to position pitchforks full of hay on the load. I did fine in slow gear until we came to a fairly steep hill. My father-in-law's little dog ran in front of the big tractor wheel. I panicked and jumped on the brake but I stomped on the clutch instead of the brake and we flew down a long hill as hay climbed up the hay loader so fast that it covered both men. The dog survived and so did we and we had many good laughs over my first tractor driving experience, (after I quit shaking).

We still had that tractor years later when Jack and I bought 40 acres of somewhat hilly land adjacent to the Smith Farm. We planted a thousand cherry trees that were a Christmas gift from Jack's parents. When the trees arrived in the spring they were like little wiener sticks with a few roots. We planted them and I earned a few blisters in the process. Jack asked me to drive the tractor to

pull a low wagon while he stood on the back of it and sow rye seed to hold the dry sandy soil down. I had still not mastered that clutch, I don't think I ever did, because it was so stiff that I had to stand on it to get it down and then when I tried to slowly release it the spring was stronger than my leg and it would pop up and we would be on our way with a jerk. The jerk forward put Jack off the wagon and into the dirt. He handled it with good humor the first few times but I couldn't help laughing and that added insult to injury and he began yelling at me after one time too many. A neighbor was later asked if the Jack Smiths were getting a divorce because he talked so awful to his wife. Little did he know what provoked that outburst. I still have to giggle as I write this.

Jack had a great sense of humor and always had a repertoire of jokes and stories to share. He was a good story teller and generous. He was always ready to help a friend when help was needed no matter how busy he was. He enjoyed hunting and fishing but didn't take much time away from farming to to either. He played soft ball and was a great pitcher and could bat a ball out of the park regularly.

Jack and I both sang in the Methodist Church Choir in Fremont, Michigan for many years and our three small children sat in the front row where we could keep an eye on them during the service. A few times when frowns wouldn't do it I had to go down and sit with them during the sermon. That meant we had to have a "discussion" about behavior in church on the way home.

Singing continued to be a part of my life. Our friends Ray and Phyllis Jansma lived a short way from us. Phyl and I both liked to sing and we developed a repertoire of folks songs and sang for our Methodist Church Camp services and we were called upon to sing for other occasions. We sang for some of the last country school Patron's Days Programs. The one and two room country schools are now a thing of the past in this part of the country.

One day, Phyllis and I were preparing for an out of town program and since we were both busy moms with three young children each, we sometimes practiced a moment or two on the phone. One time when we were working on "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" in which I held a high note in one section, my husband Jack came hurrying in the door to see what was wrong since all he could hear when he

neared the door was my part of the harmony. I got a lot of teasing about that.

PHYLLIS JANSMA & ARLENE SMITH SINGING AT FAMILY CAMP SUNDAY SERVICE ON LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH, AUGUST 1965

Jack was a very good roller skater and dancer, and we continued to skate after we were married and went to dances often. We could waltz on skates, but learning to skate backwards wasn't easy for me. There was a big "roller rink" within walking distance of my home in North Muskegon and my friends and I went their as often as we could to skate. Curvecrest, as it was called, also brought in big name bands such as Lawrence Welk to play for dances.

Our first child, **Merrilee Kay Smith**[8] was born July 18, 1946 in Muskegon Osteopathic Hospital. Doctor and Mrs. Riley of North

Muskegon, both Osteopathic doctors, handled the deliver. She was a healthy and happy baby and grew to be a very pretty girl.

MERRILEE KAY SMITH

Merrilee exhibited early on that she is a natural born caregiver. She took care of her little brothers when needed and would make them sandwiches early on a Saturday morning if they were up before their exhausted parents woke. She would go to the refrigerator and make a sandwich of whatever she could reach. It might be peanut butter or it might be plain mustard but they were satisfied for the time being. As an adult Merrilee is a good homemaker and organizer and still has her caring nature.

We became a 4H family

When Merrilee was nine she wanted to learn how to sew and Jack and I became 4H leaders. Jack had been a 4Her when growing up. We were 4H Leaders for many years and had 4H meetings in our home and were involved in the Newaygo County Fair with horses, cattle, sewing and baking projects for many years. Merrilee was a Junior 4H Leader one summer. She had four little ten year old girls in her class and she taught some nutrition and also had them bake and learn to follow a recipe. One day they were in our kitchen

making brownies. Merrilee's brothers and a hired hand were hauling bales of hay and stopped in for lemonade and a cookie. The girls proudly offered their brownies. The reactions were somewhat disappointing however, when it was discovered that the brownies contained a cup of salt instead of a teaspoon of salt!

When Merrilee started high school she and her friend Kay Demmon wanted have a slumber party for some mutual friends. Kay's mother and I agreed we would take the girls and ten friends camping over the weekend after school was out. The girls did most of the planning and we took two tents full of girls to Pentwater State Park in Pentwater, Michigan. They fished, sat on the beach and got sunburned and sang around the campfire in the evening. Other campers came and joined in the singing. Pauline and I enjoyed it as much as the girls. One year when Pauline couldn't go, my sister Janet did. We took the girls camping for four years and it was always fun great fun.

Our children learned to pick cherries on the little orchard that we planted on our 40 acres, when it produced its first cherries. They wanted a pony and I helped them pick the cherries and they put that first earned money together with some birthday money and we found Cisco, a little Mexican burro. There are many stories about adventures with Cisco too. He was a real character! One story I must include is that my three little children flattered me by praising my peanut butter cookies so I baked a double batch and they were disappearing along with pint jars of Cool aid quite fast. So I baked a triple batch and watched to see where they went. The kids had an old purse of mine which they made into a saddle bag. They filled it with cookies and being too small to get up on Cisco's back the usual way they one of them would run to Cisco, grab a handful of his long fur, dig a knee into his side and clamber up on his back. He just braced himself with all four legs sprawling when he saw them coming. After that the other little boy would coax Cisco to take a few reluctant steps toward the orchard to find a "gold mine" or to have a picnic. Well, you guessed it! Cisco liked my peanut butter cookies and would walk a few steps for a cookie and he was eating more of the cookies than the children were eating.

Merrilee got the first horse our family owned when she was 12 years old. We found a nice little grade mare and she called her Sugar. Most of our family and some of Merrilee's friends learned to

ride on Sugar. Merrilee showed her same caring nature for her horse. She loved to ride and would often ride with friends after school and on Saturdays. Her friends from town loved to come out and ride our horses. We eventually bought horses for each family member and sometimes rode together as a family on Sunday afternoons and on trail rides with other families who had horses.

MERRILEE AND SUGAR

While there are many family stories about events with the horses over the years, one comes to mind first. I learned to ride on Sugar too. One beautiful autumn day when I was a novice rider, Jack helped me saddle Sugar and he went off to work somewhere on the farm. Sugar and I started out for a leisurely ride. She was always a little reluctant to leave home so we sauntered up the road. We came to a corner and suddenly Sugar turned the corner and took off in a flat out run! I lost a stirrup and one rein. While I was grouping for the stirrup and the other rein and hanging onto the saddle horn with the other trying to stay on the horse, she suddenly stopped and continued on at a slow pace. That night at the dinner table I began telling the family about Sugars strange behavior and before I was finished the kids were laughing. It seems that every night after school when Merrilee would ride as soon as she got off the school bus and could change her clothes, she and Sugar would

meet a neighbor friend, Dick Dunning on his horse, at that corner. They would take off and race to the first farm house and then stop and continue their ride. The kids thought it was hilarious that Sugar would race with me on her and no competition!

In her teen years we often had groups of Merrilees friends at our home. We were happy that she enjoyed entertaining, and that they liked to come because we always knew where our pretty teenager was. They often sang "hootenanny" style and there were two who played guitars and the boys and girls would harmonize beautifully. They also liked to play a card game named "Peanuts" and our dining room table was full every weekend with kids and pop and box pizzas that I bought and they prepared. Most were part of the Methodist Youth Fellowship of our church. They were a good group of teenagers and never any trouble. Well only one time did we have some cause for concern.

The weekend after graduation Merrilee invited a much larger group of friends from her class and they started taking the two of the most reliable of our horses out to ride two by two. When two horses came back another two were ready to go. They were riding through the orchards and up and down the country roads and that was fine. Meanwhile the singing was going on in the living room. There was food and soft drinks in the kitchen and a Peanuts game around the dinning room table.

Suddenly I realized that it was getting dark outside and I told them the horses needed to be taken care of and put back in the barn. I was told they were still out somewhere. Two kids who weren't part of the regular crowd were on them. I sat on the back steps with some of the regulars and we watched for them to come back. As it was growing really dark and I was getting very concerned a Michigan State Police car drove into the yard and the officer got out and asked if we had a couple horses out with riders? My heart sank as I imagined a terrible accident! He went on to explain that they had gone into town with the horses and on the way home they didn't recognize the corner where they needed to turn. The horses wanted to turn but they wouldn't let them. The kids flagged the officer down, asked directions and asked him to come by and tell us they were all right and on their way home. Miraculously it all turned out well.

I asked Merrilee what she remembers about growing up on the farm and she said; "Mom hanging out clothes, the sunroom that became a bedroom, the windmill that we had in the early years. The orchards and making trails to ride horses through the woods and fields. Piling in the station wagon and heading for the lake or the toboggan runs with a car load of kids and appropriate toys for the season. Holidays with family around the piano singing and harmonizing and always singing in the car. Mom and aunts cooking holiday meals and sloppy joes. Many around for peanuts games and pizza....." The tradition of family playing the Peanuts card game when they get together continues at Merrilees home when the children and grandchildren get together even today.

MERRILEE KAY SMITH GRADUATED 1964

Merrilee invited her second cousin Paul Takessian to be her date for her senior prom.

PAUL TAKESSIAN & MERRILEE K. SMITH-MAY 23, 1964

During her Junior year at Fremont High School Merrilee began to think about what she might want to do as a career. She used one of her study halls to go out to a nearby nursing home to work and learn about occupational therapy. It was here that she met an elderly man who had just lost his wife and had been admitted to the nursing home for care. He hadn't spoken a word in the two months he had been there in spite of the staffs efforts to get him to talk. His name was Riley Allers, a name she remembered seeing on a friendship quilt that her great grandmother had received and passed it on to her. She took it into the nursing home and placed it

Mr. Allers lap with his family name showing. She asked him if he remembered Lynn and Ruby Hathaway, her grandparents. He said "I remember". That was the break through the staff had been hoping for.

After graduation, Merrilee went to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She began classes to learn occupational therapy. Meanwhile, she began dating **Thomas James Woolley** born December 16, 1941 in Oakland, California. Toms parents, Philip and Winnie Woolley had moved from Oakland, California to Fremont when Gerber Products moved the Research people from Oakland to Fremont. Phil's responsibility was the Pilot Plant Maintenance. Phil also repaired watches and clocks on the side and had an extensive clock collection.

MERRILEE AND TOM ENGAGED

Tom Woolley had been studying at Berkley in California when his parents moved, He transferred to Western Michigan University and graduated with a major in mathematics. Tom and Merrilee were married August 14, 1965 in the United Methodist Church in Fremont,

Michigan. Tom later took a sabbatical did some post graduate work at U. of California for a year. Merrilee and their boys went with him.

MERRILEE KAY SMITH
MARRIED AUGUST 14, 1965
Photo by her grandfather Philip E. Woodhouse

RECEPTION IN FELLOWSHIP HALL OF FREMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Merrilee and Tom moved to Columbus, Ohio so Tom could work with a particular research mathematician. They were living in Columbus, Ohio when their first son, **Robert Todd Woolley8** was born June 12, 1968 in Columbus, Ohio. When Bob was a year old they moved Brunswick, Maine where Tom was enrolled at Bowdon College for a time. The family then moved back to Westerville.

Their second son **Joseph Alexander Woolley8** was born March 9, 1970 in Columbus, Ohio. Tom began teaching mathematics at Ohio State University and is still teaching there in 2002. The family moved to Westerville, outside of Columbus, Ohio.

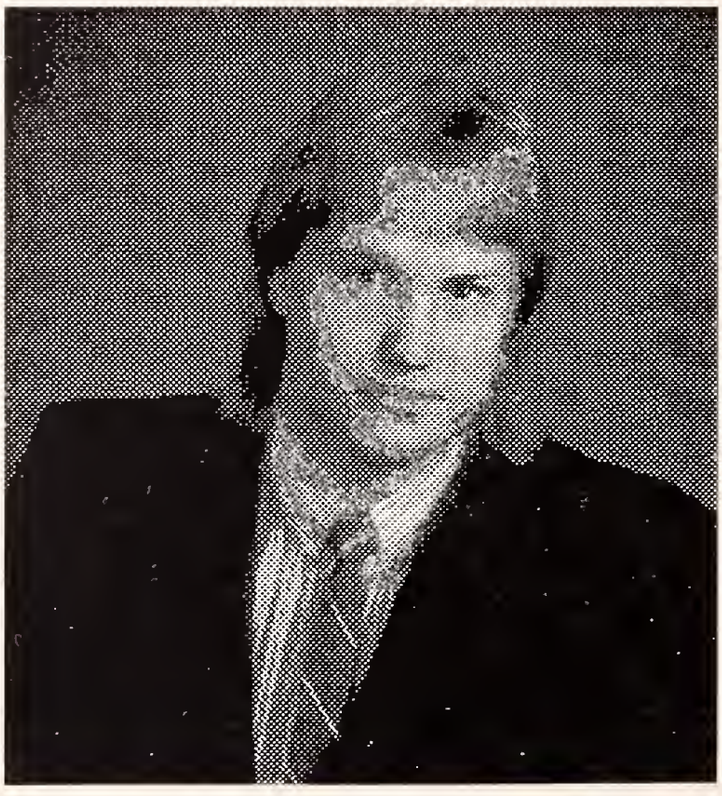
JOSEPH ALEXANDER 6 mo. & ROBERT TODD WOOLLEY 2 yrs.

Bob and Joe both were both students in the Westerville School System and both graduated from Westerville High School.

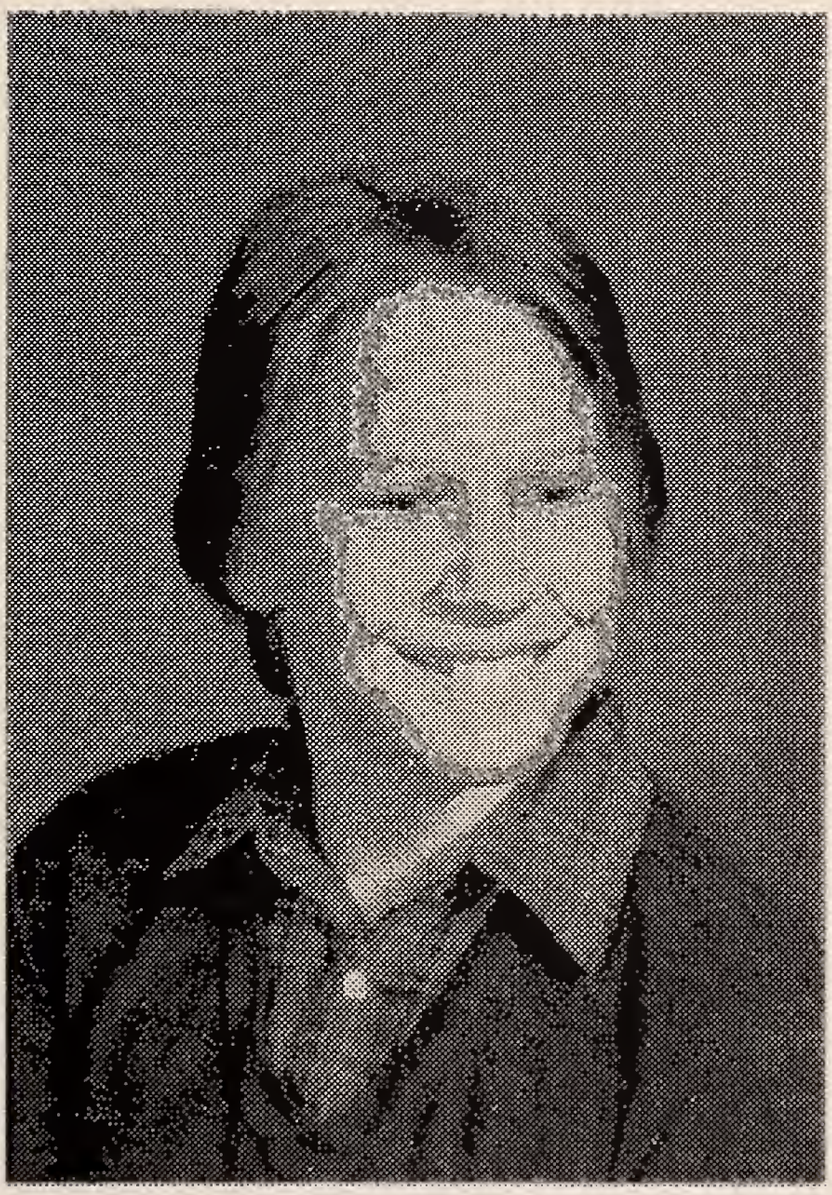
Bob played Little League baseball and was a very good student. He has learned a lot about computers and has been working for Midwestern Medical-Reed Orthopedics located in Columbus, Ohio. This is a company that sells artificial body parts, such as replacement bones and joints. Bob handles the education and ordering of medical cages, joints etc. for surgeons in the Columbus area.

Bob married first Michelle Boise born August 22, 1962 in Delaware, Ohio. They were married October 1, 1990 and later divorced. He married Jennifer Faith Anders born April 6, 1975. They were married August 29, 1996 in Westerville, Ohio and later divorced.

Bob lives in Westerville, Ohio. He has several classic cars and likes to work on them. He is an avid reader and enjoys outdoor activities such as roller blading, biking and camping.



ROBERT TODD WOOLLEY



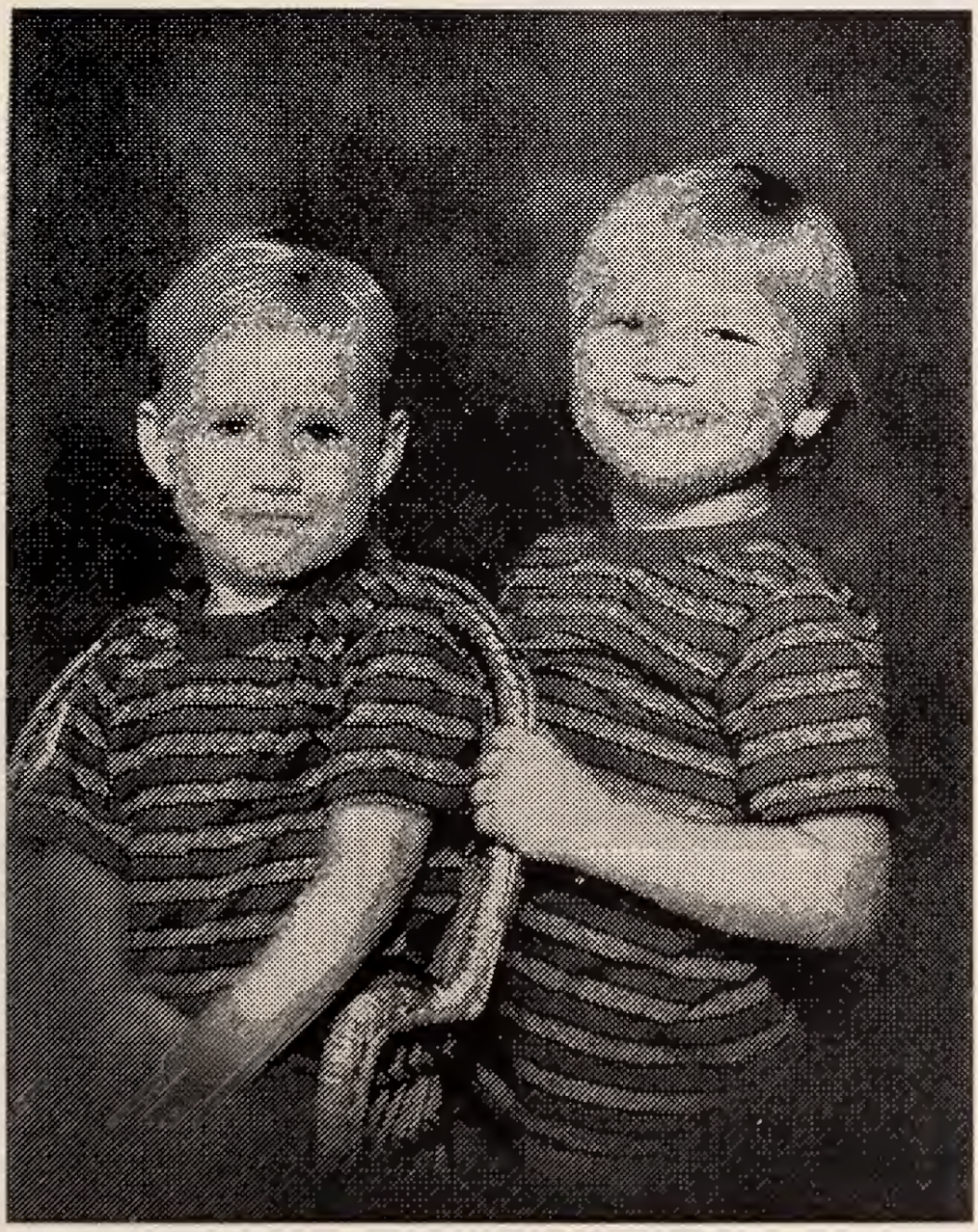
JOSEPH ALEXANDER WOOLLEY

Joseph Alexander Woolley8 was born in Columbus, Ohio to Merrilee and Tom Woolley on March 4, 1970. As a child Joe was always interested in how things work. He had a little electronic board that he got for Christmas one year and he wired the house so that when he turned the light switch on in his room his electric train started around the track. He then decided to surprise his mother when she came home from work by wiring the vacuum cleaner in the closet to turn on when she turned the hall light on when coming home from work. Life is full of surprises with a curious child around. Joe enjoys biking and constructing Lego type automated adult type toys.

Joe married **Crystal Renee Smith** June 16, 1990 in the Barnett Road Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. Crystal was born December 8,

1969 in St. Ann's Women's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, to Donald Allen Smith born January 25, 1944 and Carol Sue Wheaten born May 30, 1952 in central Ohio. Joe and Crystal met while they were both taking computer classes.

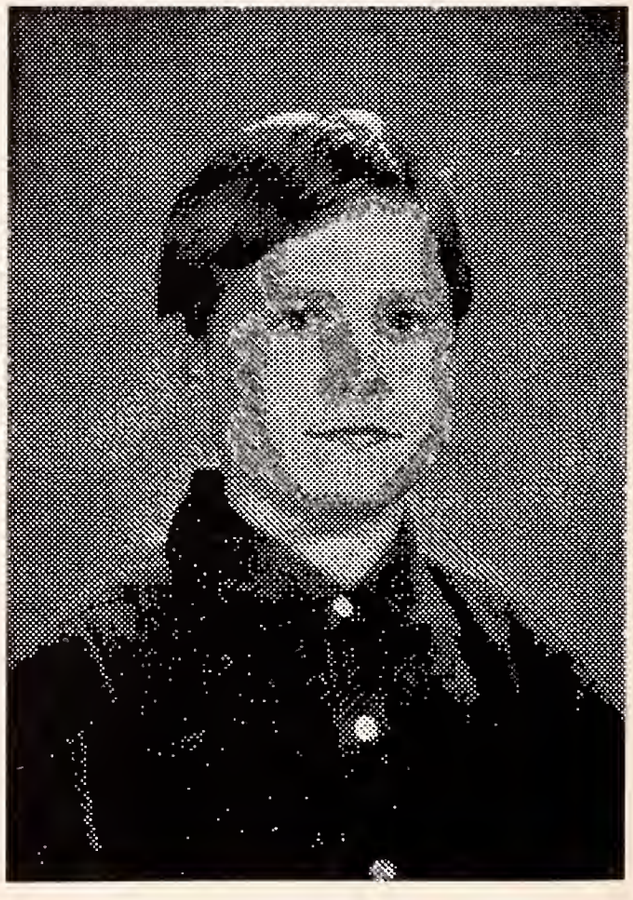
Crystal brought to the marriage two young sons. They are **Timothy Matthew McCall9** born January 27, 1985 in Westerville, Ohio and **Derrick Ryan Smith9** born March 5, 1987 in Westerville.



DERRICK RYAN SMITH & TIMOTHY MATTHEW McCALL

TIMOTHY MATTHEW McCALL

Tim is an outstanding student and excels in most of his classes. He plays soccer and plays the guitar. He works at McDonalds after school and on weekend.



DERRICK RYAN SMITH

Derrick plays the guitar and enjoys skateboarding. He is very interested in architecture and is a fine artist.

Joe and Crystal both became proficient with computers early on and Joe worked for a few years for Compuserve as a technician. He now does programing for a large company in Columbus. Crystal does data entry and is a computer technical assistant for Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Joe and Crystal first bought a home in Columbus, Ohio and then bought a lovely new home in Pickerington, Ohio in the year 2000. **Kera Leanne Woolley9** was born in Westerville, Ohio on September 17, 1991 to Joe and Crystal Woolley. Kera is our first great grandchild. Her great great grandparents, Philip and Wilma Woodhouse and Ray and I flew to Columbus for five generation photo.

FIVE GENERATIONS

KERA LEANNE WOOLLEY AGE 4 YEARS

MERRILEE AND CHARLES REISLING 2001

On March 16, 1991 Merrilee married **Charles Allen Reisling** born July 1, 1961 in Steubenville, Jefferson County, Ohio to Elaine Hilliard and David Reisling. Chuck had a stroke at age 25 years due to an unusual medical condition, leaving his left side paralyzed. It was suggested that he would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair but my spunky son-in-law didn't buy that and has slowly and with great determination regained some of the use of his arm and hand and walks with what appears to be little difficulty. He continues to recover almost daily. We all admire his perseverance and are very proud of him! Chuck works as an accounting supervisor for United Parcel Service.

After her divorce from Tom Woolley, Merrilee went to school and became a Physician's Assistant. She has worked in many kinds of doctors offices since then and went on and got some Pharmaceutical training. She currently works in the office of Columbus Opthamology in Columbus, Ohio.

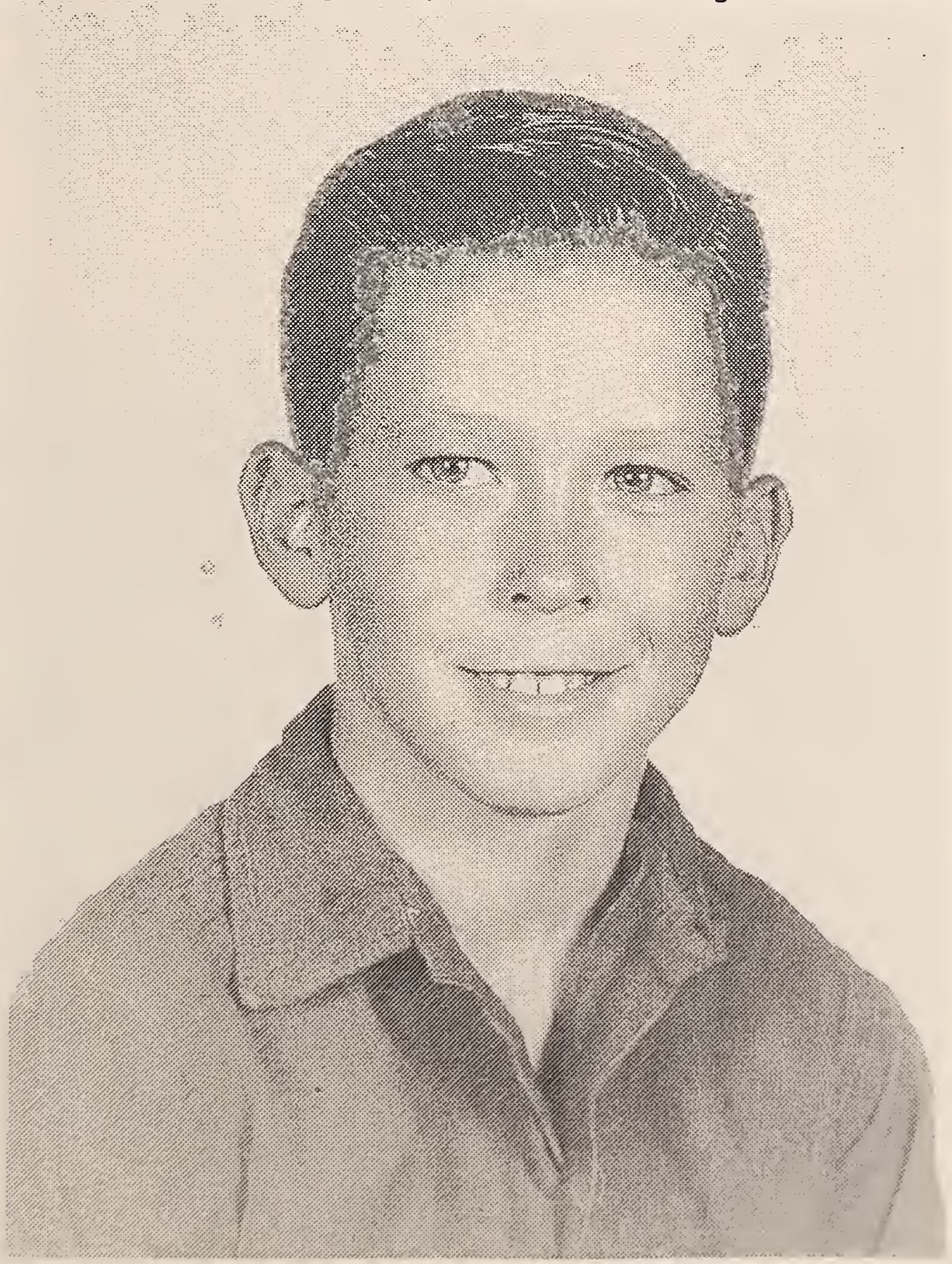
Michael Lynn Smith8 was born March 4, 1949 in the Osteopathic Hospital in Muskegon, Michigan.

MERRILEE AND MICHAEL SMITH

Two and half years after Merrilee was born came **Michael Lynn Smith8** born March 4, 1949 in the Muskegon Osteopathic Hospital. This time a Fremont Osteopath, Dr. Kring handled the delivery. Mike the first boy born in the family for some time. Michael also was born in Muskegon Osteopathic Hospital because Osteopath's were not yet allowed to work in the regular hospitals with Medical Doctors.

Michael was the first boy born in the Philip Woodhouse family and everyone was very pleased to welcome him. He is his fathers son in many ways including his sense of humor. He was always hard working and has always shown leadership qualities. On the farm, along with the milk cows we had a couple hundred acres of orchards, including Peaches, pears, apples and cherries. In his early teens he Mike was often left in charge of the cherry picking crew

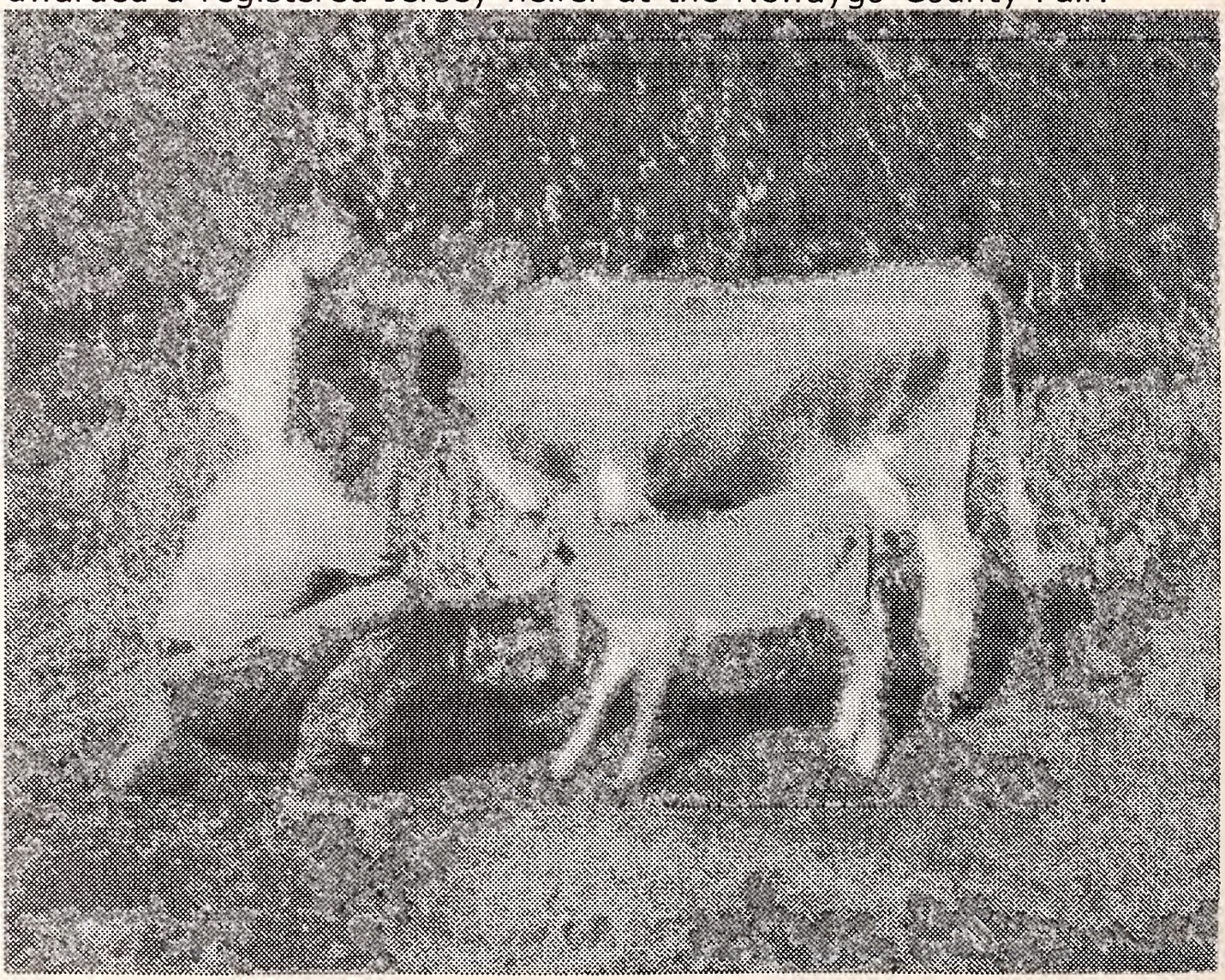
when his Dad had to drive a truck load of cherries to the processor to be sold. Mike learned to drive a tractor at an early age and by that time we had one that was more manageable than the old John Deere. Jack would put the tractor in slow gear and Mike would steer the tractor across a hay field while his Dad threw the bales onto the wagon. Children who grow up on a farm learn good work ethics.



MICHAEL LYNN SMITH AGE 12 YEARS

When Mike was about 10 we got a horse for him and his brother Jack took over Merrilee's horse Sugar and she got another horse with a little more spunk. One summer afternoon the boys were out riding their horses and I was talking with my mother-in-law on the wall crank telephone when she said " Arlene, the boys just went by our house with the horses running fast toward home. They were yelling something!" I dropped the phone and ran to the dirt road in front of our house as fast as I could to stop runaway horses and heard what they were yelling. "The British are coming, the British are coming!" There are many family stories that involve the horses while the children were growing up.

Mike raised a cash crop of squash one year and he used the money to buy a pregnant sow. She had ten piglets and Mike managed to raise them all. He sold the pigs and used the money to buy some young cattle and began a herd of his own. He had also been awarded a registered Jersey heifer at the Newaygo County Fair.



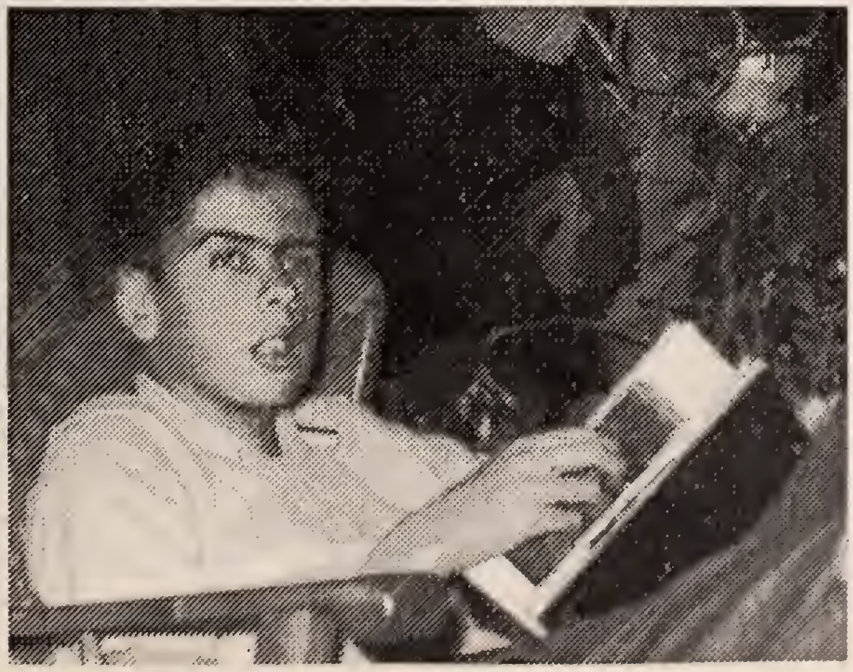
MIKE & HEIDI, HIS DAD JACK & HEIDI'S CALF

Mike played Little League baseball and was in the Boy Scouts. He played the trombone and was on the Fremont High School wrestling team for several years.

While living on the farm we had several foreign exchange students. The first was Daniel Archibong a graduate student who was sent Michigan State University by the Nigerian government to learn plant hybridization. He had just about finished his masters degree. We were asked to take him into our home for a long weekend so he could see a working farm before he went back to Nigeria. I think our family learned as much about him and his country as he learned about us.

Next we had Jane Niven of Perth, Scotland. Jane came to us through the International Farm Youth Exchange and 4 H. Jane was 21 years old and was with us for the summer 1962. Jane spent a summer with us. We enjoyed her visit with us and we still keep in touch.

After that came Ignacio Iturbe de Allesio of Mexico City. He is the son of a doctor in Mexico City and he came in winter of 1964 at age 14 and stayed for 10 weeks. We all loved "Nacho". He visited us many times again and his whole family of seven came to visit us and we visited them in Mexico City. He is a Herpetologist in San Diego with a wife and two daughters now.



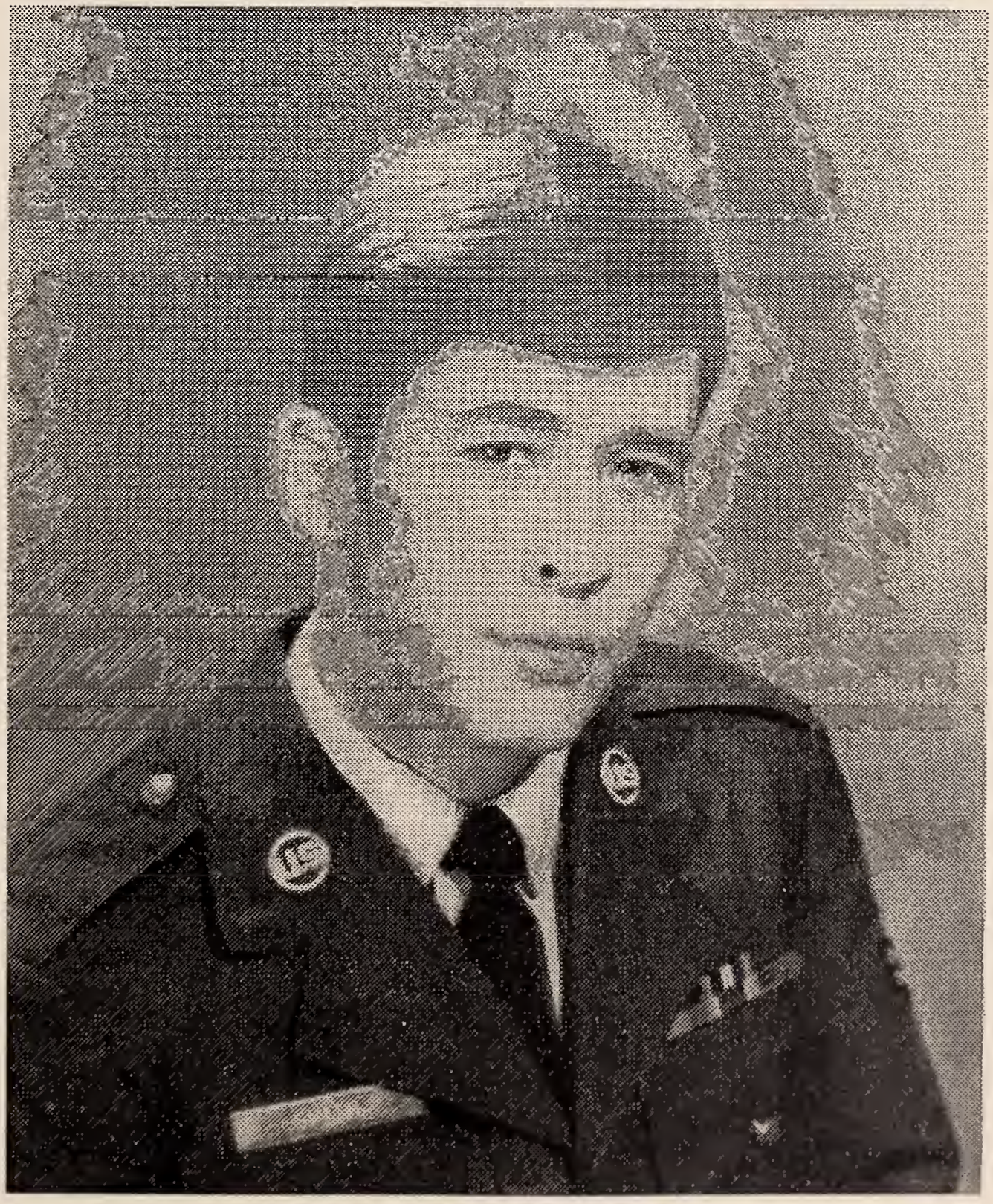
IGNACIO ITURBE DE ALLESIO AGE 14, 1964

We had another exchange student, Juha Korhonen of Finland. He was with us a year.

Michael was an exchange student to Finland the summer after his junior year of high school. Four students were exchange students that year. Christine Frodey, Rays daughter went to Mexico. Judy Hamilton, went to Germany, David Johnson, Mikes second cousin went to Germany and Michael went to Finland. All went on the Youth For Understanding Program for ten a ten week stay.

Mike lived with the Veikko Ritzanen family in Aanekoski, Finland. Aanekoski is approximately 150 miles north of Helsinki.

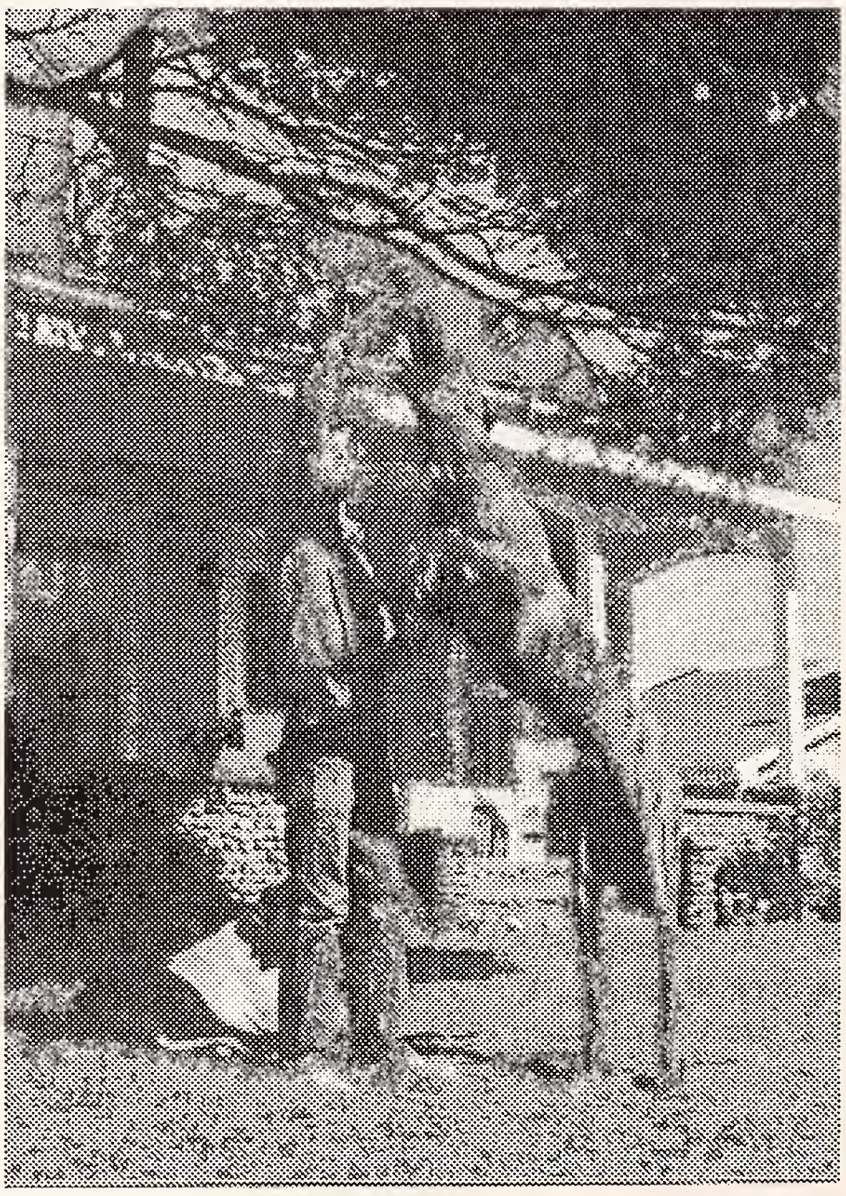
Michael graduated from Fremont High School in 1967
After graduation Michael enlisted in the United States Air Force. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force technical school at Sheppard Air Force base in Texas. He served a year in Vietnam.



MICHAEL LYNN SMITH 1968

After Mike got out of the Air Force he went to out East to study guitar making and repair in Vermont. He also does fine woodworking. Mike lived in Boca Raton, Florida for a few years and operated a furniture refinishing business. For the past 15 years he has worked for HiLites Graphics in Fremont, Michigan. He supervises the Bindery Department.

Michael has always been good with animals and his dogs are always well trained. Mike is shown here with Temuchin & Ryedog.



MIKE AND HIS DOG TEMUCHIN WITH RYEDOG LYING DOWN

Mike and his brother Jack each bought a Great Dane puppy. Mike named his dog Temuchin. Tem and Ryedog who was Jacks dog, were quite a houseful while they were growing up but delightful too. After their father died in 1975 and I was alone on the farm,

both of my sons independently offered their dogs to me for company while I was alone on the farm. I accepted them both. I never felt alone or afraid to be alone with these two big dogs in the house. I want to share one of my favorite memories of the dogs. That first summer a rather scruffy looking young man drove up in a old car and came to the door. He said he was selling magazines. We never had sales people come door to door in the country. Rye came and stood crosswise between me and the door. Tem who was the largest of the two and a dark brindle in color, came and stood beside me. He was wearing a "choke chain" collar and I held the collar. As soon as the young man started to talk, Tem began a deep throated rumble. The young man tried to tell me what he was selling but stopped mid sentence and asked "he wouldn't come through that screen door at me would he"? All of a sudden the whole scene seemed funny to me and I asked Tem, "I don't know would you go through that door Tem" and he answered with a huge WOOF! Mike had taught him to bark when ever he asked him a question. It could have been any question at all, but Tem convinced the young man to back down the porch steps and just when one of the barn cats who had been sunning herself on the porch roof jumped and landed on his shoulder. The young man hurried to his car and left without finishing his sales pitch.

On October 31, 1981 Michael married **Pamela Jane Anderson** in the Central Methodist Church of Muskegon, Michigan. Pamela was born November 19, 1956 to Max Anderson and Maybelle Laverne Moran. Pam brought to the marriage two children. **Andi Alicia Young** and **Paul Michael Voss**.

Mike and Pam had one daughter, **Jennifer Rachael Smith**[9] born September 3, 1982 in General Hospital, Muskegon, Michigan. Pam and Mike later divorced. Jenny was a tiny baby weighing only five pounds when she was born and is a petite young woman now.

Jenny graduated from Reeths Puffer High School in Muskegon in June of 2001. She was active in the schools Children's' Theater and receive honors for her work with that group. Jenny was a good student in high school and is now enrolled in Columbia College in Chicago to study theater related subjects.

JENNY SMITH AND PSYCHO HER HAMSTER
Photo by her grandmother V. Arlene Frodey

Jenny Smith inherited her Dad's love of animals

JENNIFER RACHAEL SMITH 2001

Jack Richard Smith8 our third child, was born on August 3, 1950 in Gerber Memorial Hospital in Fremont, Michigan. Our family lived in Reeman, Newaygo County, Michigan when Jack was born. Jack Senior had a job managing the Anderson Orchards. Jack started school with his sister and brother in the Reeman School which had two rooms. Our friend Ruth Bennett was the teacher in the class with the older kids. About three weeks after school started she mentioned to me that she had insisted that Jack should go into the kindergarten class now because he had been sitting with his sister up until then and she was taking care of him and not getting her own studies done. Merrilee the little mother was taking care of her little brother when he was feeling insecure those first few days of school. Her Dad and I hadn't heard about it.

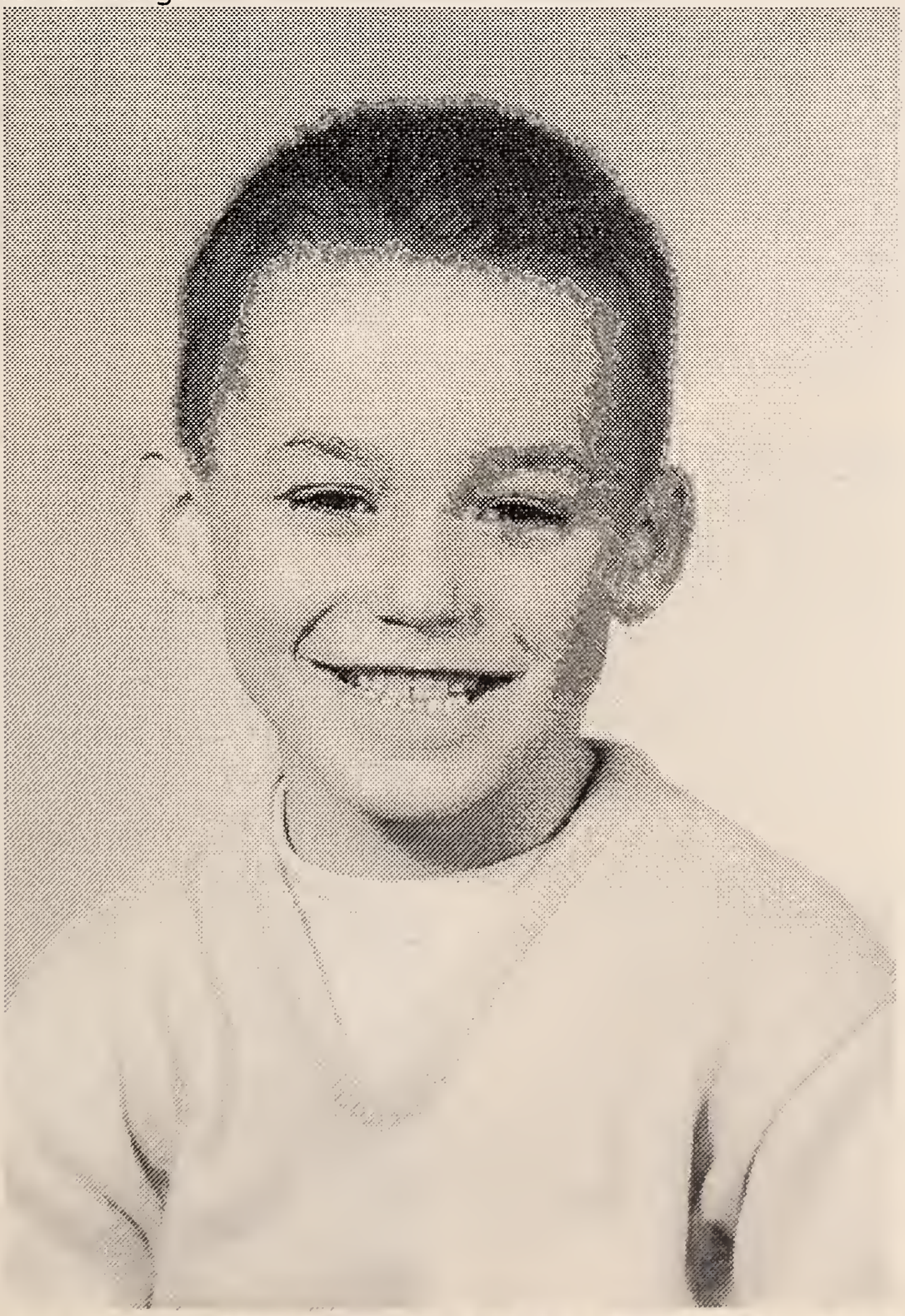
About 1956 we moved back to the Smith family farm and began again the remodeling process. Jack worked with his father. Jackie as he was called, also learned to work on the farm. The milk cows were kept in the barn at their grandparents farm up the road from us and the boys helped their dad and grandfather with the evening chores. The three generations working together was an nice way to grow up, and Grandma always had cookies in the cookie jar.

One summer Fremont Recreation offered swimming lessons for children ten and older. I enrolled Merrilee and Mike but they wouldn't accept Jack because he was not quite ten yet since he was born in August. He was very disappointed. I read in the paper that the Fremont Foundation was offering art classes taught by an art teacher from Muskegon. At the end of the period of classes the teacher held a little open house for the parents. He called me aside and showed me some of the drawings that Jack had done and said he was talented and should be encouraged. One the way home we stopped in town and bought him a sketch pad and some charcoal pencils. That was the beginning of what became his life's work. Jack is a painter and a very fine artist.

Our friend Ray Jansma, an artist of many talents had a great influence on Jack as he was growing up. I remember times when our two families would get together for pop corn on Sunday evenings and Ray and young Jack would sit by themselves drawing and talking. He gave Jack a lot of encouragement over the years. Ray and his wife Phyllis, a musician and piano teacher, have given

many children and adults in the community encouragement in the arts.

I am remembering now that his grade school teachers used to begin the parent teachers conferences with "he is a very sociable little fellow but I wish he would spend more time with the work on his paper instead of decorating the borders of the pages with elaborate drawings. This is Jack today. A very sociable fellow who paints for a living.



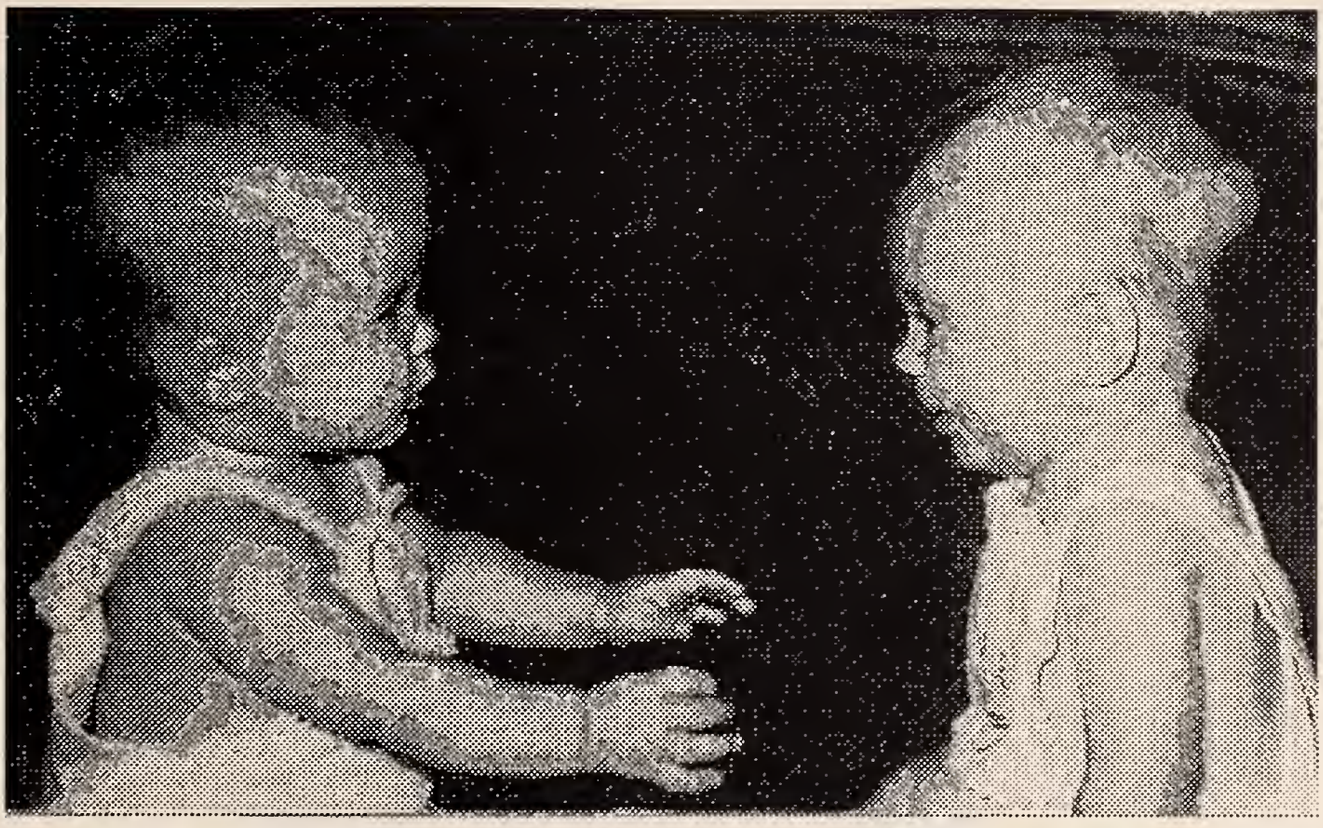
JACK RICHARD SMITH FIRST GRADE AT REEMAN SCHOOL

The summer between 10th and 11th grades Jack was awarded ten week scholarship to the arts division of National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. The Business and Professional Women's group awarded this. Coincidentally, my cousin Harold Woodhouses daughter Candace Woodhouse, who was living in Traverse City, Michigan was also awarded the same scholarship at the same time. They found each other by accident and were surprised to find they were related. Candy has worked there designing costumes for the theater classes at Interlochen which is now a year around school for the arts.

His "camp progress reports" for 3 dimensional Design gave him an A-2 with the comment "Jack has so many ideas going at once he couldn't or did not bring them to a conclusion. However they were good ideas. Jack should continue in art if at all possible. He also received an A2 in Figure Drawing. This is interesting to look back on now because this is what he does for a living. He paints portraits and paints excellent still lifes.

Jack did well in his art classes through out school. After graduation from Fremont High School he applied for and received a scholarship to the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio. Jack found this school geared more to graphics than to fine art and so he applied to Instituto de Allende in Delores Hidalgo, New Mexico where his high school art teacher was now teaching. He got a scholarship to study there and did so for a year. Then he came back to Michigan and studied at the Thomas Jefferson division of Grand Valley University in Allendale, Michigan and later a semester at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan.

Jack lived in Tucson, Arizona for awhile and then met and married **Kimberly Anne Wever** born August 3, 1956 in Muskegon, Michigan. Kim is the daughter of Laverne "Pete" Wever and Marilyn Hammond. Jack and Kim moved to Taos, New Mexico and were married on August 22, 1981. Kim also has artistic talent and made a beautiful end table that I treasure. She has woven baskets and done a lot of sewing for herself and their daughters. It was here Taos that their first daughter **Kelsey Anne Smith**[9] was born on December 9, 1982 in Taos. When Kelsey was seven months old they moved back to Fremont to be near both families for awhile.



JENNY SMITH 1 YR. WELCOMES COUSIN KELSEY SMITH 7 MO.

Kelsey began school in Fremont and has always been a good student. She took gymnastics classes from the time she was 19 months old from her mother's sister, Denice Brummel.

KELSEY ANNE SMITH

Jack and Kims second daughter, **Kaely Troyer Smith9** was born October 21, 1985 at home on Ramshorn Drive in Fremont, Michigan. Kaely also took gymnasics from their Aunt Denice.

KAELY TROYER SMITH

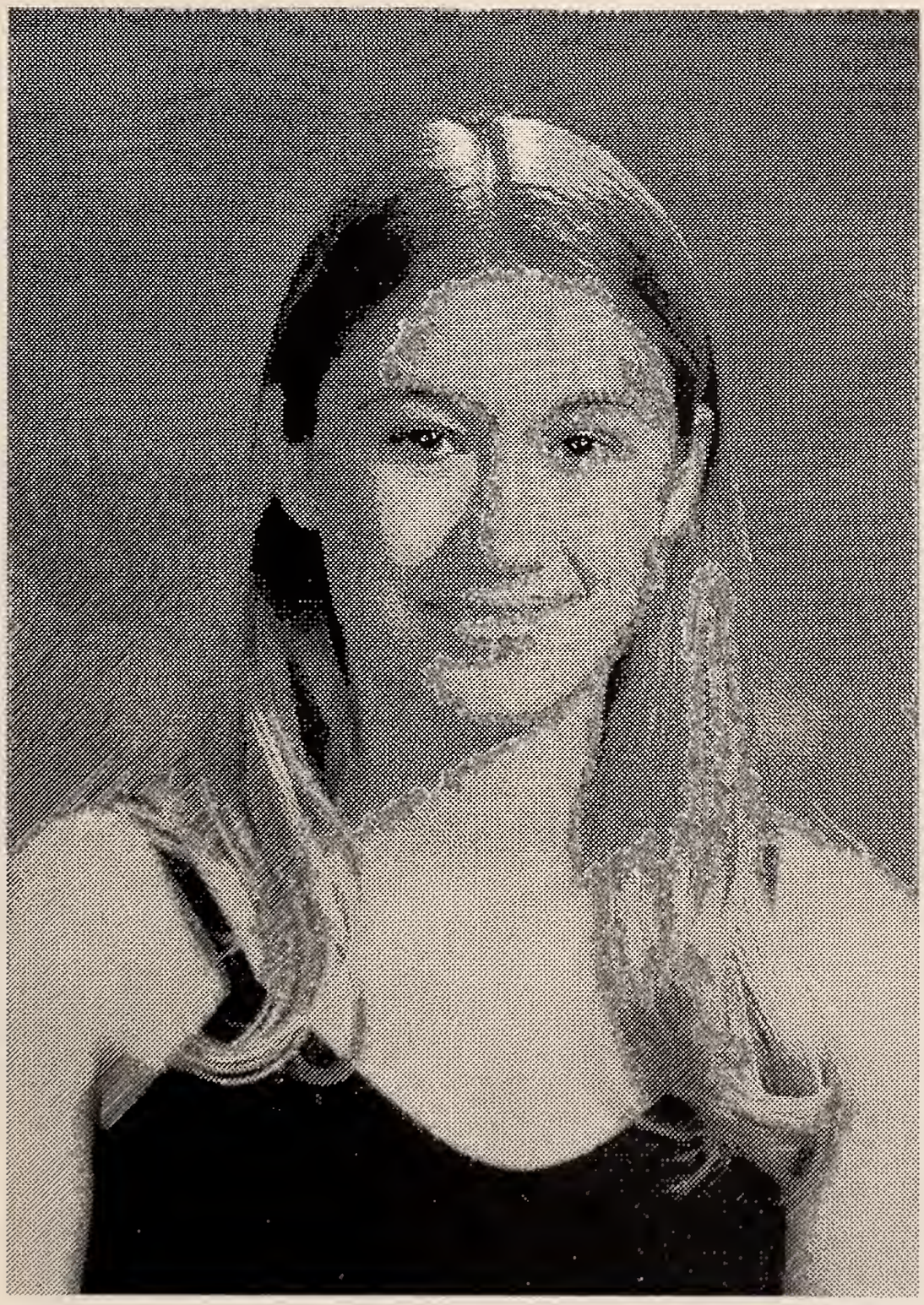
Jack continued with his painting and got some commissions for portraits particularly among the Gerber family members. They were very supportive of his talent and Dan Gerber Junior became his friend and sometimes mentor. There were "one man shows" of Jacks work in the Muskegon Museum of Art and in the Arts Place in Fremont. He had work in other shows in the area with good reviews from the art critics printed in the newspapers. Jack has had shows in Chicago, several towns in Michigan including Grand Rapids and Detroit. He has work in private collections internationally.

When Kelsey was ten and Kaely was eight years old Jack and Kim decided to move back to Taos, New Mexico. The girls enrolled in school there and Jack and Kim bought an adobe style home in Arroyo Hondo about 15 miles north of Taos. Jack built a studio and Kim along with a business partner started a fast food business call "Taos Wrappers" The business has grown to a point where they do catering and their gourmet wraps are standard fare in the refrigerated section of the largest grocery store in Taos. Kim and her partner have stuck with it and built a very nice business now.

Kelsey tried out for the Missoula Children's Theater when it came to Taos and got a part. She liked acting and applied for a scholarship for the Missoula Children's Theater in Missoula, Montana. When she arrived in Missoula she was met by Michelle and Eric Hutchins. Ray Frodey's youngest daughter and my step daughter. She spent a day or two with them until Ray and I flew out there and drove her to the Children's Theater Camp.

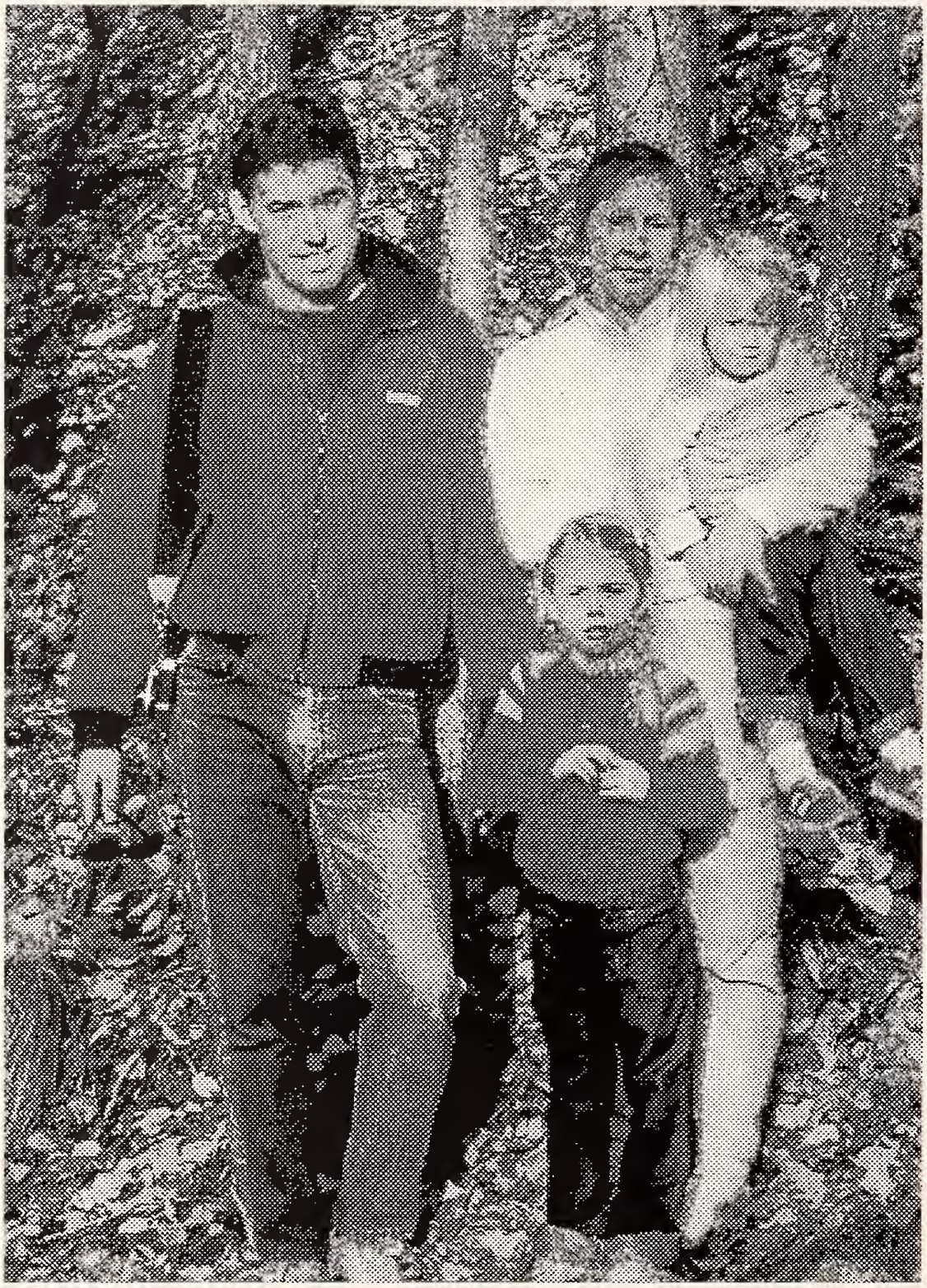
Kelsey did well in school and graduated in May of 2001 from Taos High School. She got a job for the summer after graduation as a nanny for an eleven year old son of a firm producer. She spent the summer in a Malibu Beach house next door to actor Tom Hanks home. She took acting lessons and got a contract with a modeling agency but decided that this was not the life for her. She came home to Taos, and applied to New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She has decided to get a nursing degree and has completed her first semester toward that goal.

KELSEY ANNE SMITH

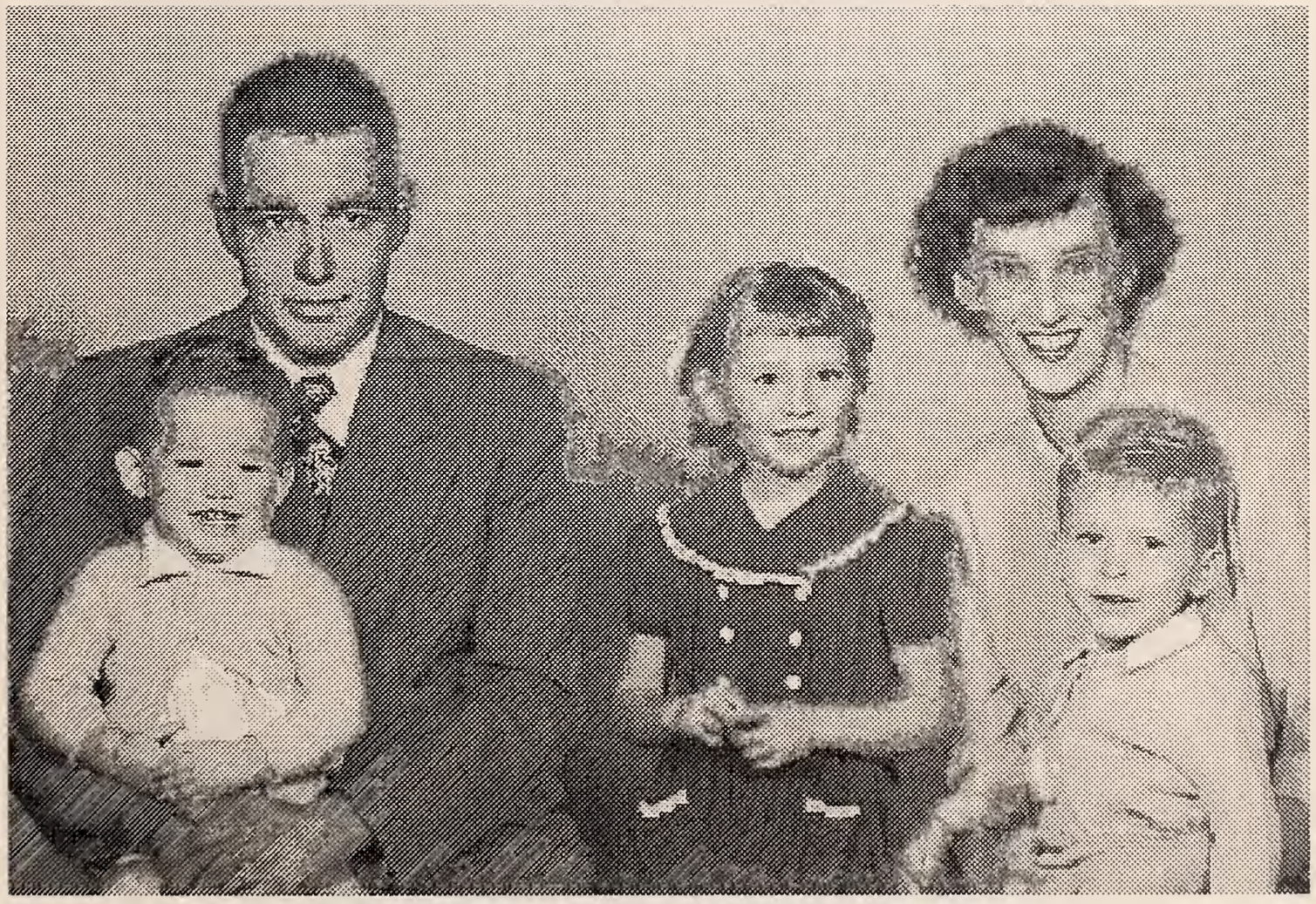


KAELY TROYER SMITH AGE 16 YEARS

Kaely has completed the tenth grade at Taos High School. She is interested in photography and seems to have inherited some of her parents artistic talents.



JACK SMITH & KIM WEVER WITH DAUGHTERS KELSEY & KAELY AT THEIR PROPERTY ON THE WHITE RIVER 1987



JACK E. SMITH HOLDING JACK R. SMITH, MERRILEE K. SMITH, V. ARLENE SMITH HOLDING MICHAEL L. SMITH (about 1952)

JACK EARL SMITH DIED APRIL 29, 1975
Photo by Philip E. Woodhouse

Family farms were becoming a thing of the past and Jack found he couldn't make a living on our family farm anymore. He sold the cows and equipment and bought two bulk milk hauling trucks. He built a good business and traveled 250 miles a day to farms around Newaygo County to haul their milk to Dean Foods in Big Rapids, Michigan. He worked hard and didn't have a day off for two years straight. He hired another driver to drive the second truck.

Jack loved to bowl and was a member of the Methodist Men's Bowling team for years. These men were his pall bearers at his funeral.

Jack was a smoker and was never able to quit for very long. He developed emphysema and then lung cancer. Jack still had his

sense of humor in the last days of his life. The radiologist drew a target rectangle on his chest to be left there until he was finished with the Xray series. When his artist son Jack visited one time he asked him to draw a nude in the "frame" on his chest. Jack did and the nurses were concerned that the Oncologist wouldn't like it because they had strict orders not to touch that target frame. The nurses told me they peaked around the doorway when the doctor came next time to examine Jack. They said the always sober doctor burst out laughing and they had never heard him laugh before.

Jack died April 29, 1975 in Hackley Hospital in Muskegon. He had not reached his 51st birthday and I was a widow at age 47. Fortunately, by then I had a job with Gerber Products Company with offices less than two miles from our farm home.

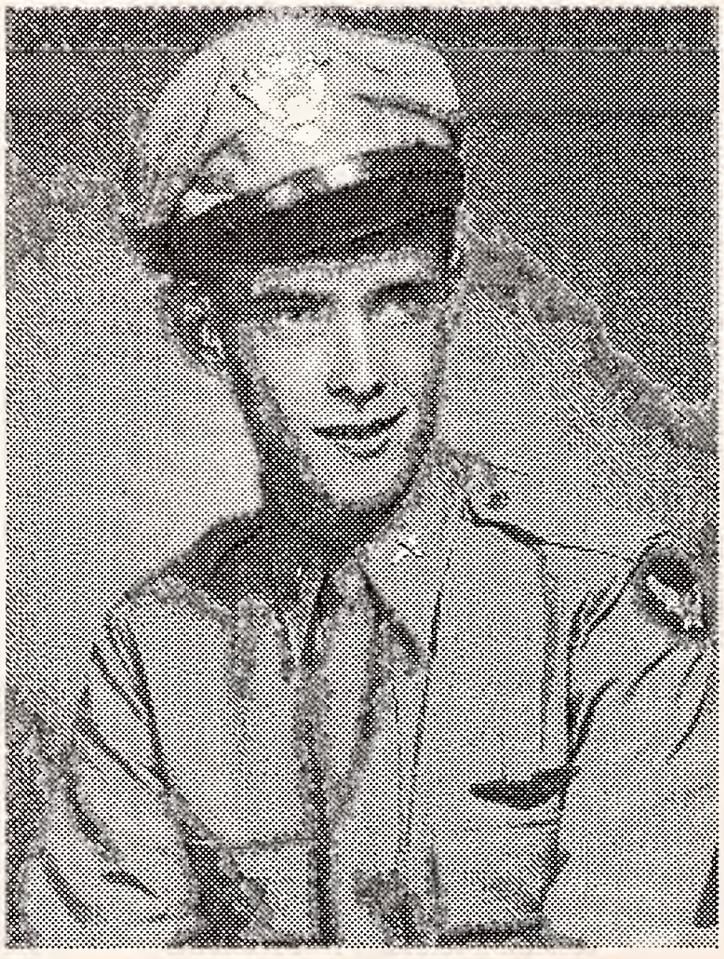
I bought myself my first ever bicycle. Another widow, our choir director at the Fremont United Methodist Church. Eleanor Culling and I learned to back pack and we took several fine vacations together in the Northwest. We hiked in the North Cascades with the Courtney Family's Hike and Like it tours. We also pack packed in the Grand Tetons and on Mt. Robson in British Columbia. This was great because it was something I would not have attempted by myself but fun to share. I bought a 35mm camera and joined the Muskegon Camera Club.

ARLENE TOOK UP BACK PACKING

Ray Charles Frodey was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania September 3, 1923 to Charles John Frodey and Carolyn Mering both of Pittsburgh.

Ray went to Mt. Lebanon High School and was an outstanding student. He was fascinated with the idea of flying and built working models of planes and flew them and entered competitions. He was awarded the best in the world in two model airplane classes. He earned his pilots license before he got a drivers license at age 17.

He was a student at MIT when W.W.II broke out and they began drafting young men into the Army. If he was going into the military he wanted to fly so he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was trained as a fighter pilot and checked out in a variety of planes. He ended up flying transport across the Atlantic.



RAY CHARLES FRODEY 1944 as 2nd LT.

RAY AS AVIATION CADET DURING W.W.II GETTING INTO A PT 19

Meanwhile Ray married Rosemary Hill of Pittsburgh and they had three daughters and a son who died at birth. His daughters are: **Carol Ann Frodey** born February 16, 1946 in Pittsburgh. Carol now lives in Suva, Fiji and has an adopted daughter **Katie Frodey** .born January 5, 1994 in Fiji. Carol teaches at the University of the South Pacific in Suva. Merrilee and Carol have been friends since childhood.

MERRILEE & CAROL age 7

CAROL & KATIE FRODEY

ALISON, RAY, EVAN & CHRISSIE DROMMOND

Christine Elizabeth Frodey born May 4, 1952 in Fremont, Michigan. Chrissie was an exchange student to Mexico the same summer that Michael went to Finland. Chrissie married **Ray Drommond** and they have a son **Evan Christopher Drommond** born April 25, 1985 in Portland, Oregon and a daughter **Alison Elisabeth Drommond** born May 31, 1987 in Portland, Oregon. The family lives in Portland, Oregon. Chrissie is a Pediatric Physical Therapist and Ray is a Speech Physiologist working with schools in Portland at the present time.

MICHELLE, HANNAH, ERIC & GRAHAM HUTCHINS

Michelle Carlisle Frodey born April 24, 1958 in Fremont, Michigan. Michelle has a degree in Geology and a masters degree in Environmental Science from the University of Montana in Missoula.

Eric Forrest Hutchins was born December 11, 1958 in Alexandria, Virginia. Eric received a Bachelor of Music Education in 1984 and a Master of Music degree in 1997 from University of Montana in Missoula. Eric is now working toward a doctorate degree in music. He is a composer and a fine musician.

Michelle and Eric were married June 14, 1980 in Missoula, Montana. They have two children: **Graham Carlisle Hutchins** born October 4, 1992 in Missoula, Montana. **Hannah Rose Frodey Hutchins** was born August 16, 1994 in Missoula, Montana.

Ray C. Frodey and I were married January 9, 1982 in our newly purchased home on Long Lake, Fremont, Michigan where we now reside.

Ray retired from Gerber Products November 1985 as Vice Research and Quality Control. He had been with Gerber 37 years.

I retired as a Senior Market Research Analyst after almost 20 years with Gerber Products Company.

Ray and I continue to enjoy the shared hobbies of nature photography and genealogy. Ray also enjoys writing poetry. We have traveled extensively in the pursuit of nature photography. In the early years of our marriage we showed slide programs over much of the State of Michigan and as far away as Long Beach, California. We have both been active members of the West Shore Camera Club in Muskegon for more than 25 years and continue to carry cameras whenever we travel. I have recently taken up shooting and editing digital video.

RAY AND ARLENE FRODEY OCTOBER 1995

THE END

STRANGERS IN THE BOX

Come, look with me inside this drawer
In this box I've often seen
At the pictures, black and white
Faces proud, still, serene
I wish I knew the people
These strangers in the box
Their names an all their memories
Are lost among my socks
I wonder what their lives were like
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways
If only someone had taken time
To tell who, what, where or when
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again
Could this become the fate
Of pictures we take today?
Make time to save your stories
Sieze the opportunity when it knocks
Or someday you and yours could be
The strangers in the box.

(unknown)

NOTES

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Remember me in the
Family Tree~

My name , my days,
my strife~

Then I'll ride upon the
Wings of time and
live an endless life~

Goetsck